AN ABSTRACT

OF THE

EVIDENCE

LATELY TAKEN IN

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

AGAINST

THE ORDERS IN COUNCIL,

BEING

A SUMMARY OF THE FACTS THERE PROVED,

RESPECTING

THE PRESENT STATE OF THE COMMERCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE COUNTRY.

London:

PRINTED BY J. M'CREERY, BLACK-HORSE-COURT, FLEET-STREET.

1812.

PREFACE.

THE following pages contain a plain and faithful, though a very concise abridgment of the important body of Evidence now before the House of Commons, against the Orders in Council. The original consists of 480 folio pages, and contains the examination of 82 Witnesses. A number of questions were unavoidably put to these witnesses, which had no tendency to illustrate the subject, and could, at the best, only lead them into matter of argument or opinion. It is the object of this abridgment to exhibit the *matters of fact* detailed in this long and painful inquiry.

With respect to the arrangement, all the pains have not been taken, which a greater command of time might have afforded the means of bestowing; and in order to render it complete, much repetition would have been unavoidable, as the various heads of the inquiry were in many particulars necessarily connected together. But a few words may suffice to shew the reader the plan here pursued.

The inquiry commenced with a very extensive proof of the present unexampled distresses in the various manufacturing districts. The state of the manufactures accordingly forms the first branch of the evidence; this is detailed in succession, not in the very order in which the witnesses were called, or the different kinds of manufactures were taken, but in a somewhat more convenient form. The manufactures of Birmingham, and the neighbouring districts come first, then those of Sheffield, which completes the evidence relating to

the great staple of Hardware; next follow the Potteries of Staffordshire, and then the Woollen and Cotton Trades in Yorkshire and Lancashire, comprehending Leeds, Rawden, Wakefield, Halifax, Dewsbury, Saddleworth, Rochdale, Bury, Manchester, Stockport, and Bolton. The Carpet Trade of Kidderminster, the Stocking Trade of Leicester and Hinckley, and the Worsted Trade of Warwick come next, then the Glass Trade, the Salt Trade of Cheshire, the Linen Trade of Scotland, the Cloth Manufacture of the West of England, and lastly, the Spital Fields Trade.

Under each head, the witnesses are arranged in the order of their importance to the proof derived from their depositions; and each statement, given as much as possible in the very words of the witness, is authenticated by a reference to the Minutes printed by the House of Commons.

The points proved by this branch of the evidence are, chiefly the distressed state of the Manufacturers, both Masters and Workmen; the connexion of this with the loss of the American Market; the depression of the Home Market from that circumstance, and the want of other vents to supply these deficiencies. It is also shewn, that whatever the enemy's measures may have done to cramp our Manufactures, by closing the Continent to them, the Orders in Council have not relieved us, as was predicted and expected; and that vast orders for goods to America are now in hand, with instructions to execute them as soon as the Orders in Council are removed. These are the points principally intended to be established by the first and chief branch of the evidence. But it necessarily involves also many of the proofs that belong to the mercantile part of the question, such as the state of American manufactures.

The next general head is that of Commerce. In so far

as this is not handled under the first division, it is here detailed by evidence of the state of Liverpool and London, and of the Merchants carrying on the American and Continental Trade. The attempts to find substitutes for the American market in South and North America, and elsewhere, are fully explained in the first division.

The evidence touching the American Manufactures, in so far as it does not come under the first head, is reserved for a separate division, which closes this abstract. It clearly appears, that those manufactures have been greatly promoted by the interruption of intercourse with this country, and that unless that intercourse be speedily restored, the United States will be able to manufacture for their own consumption.

There will be an abstract of the evidence on the other side of the question prepared and circulated, if possible. It consists almost wholly of opinions and arguments, in many particulars not very consistent, given to the Committee by the several witnesses; apprehensions of bad effects from allowing the enemy to export freely his manufactures, and import the raw materials of them; particularly fears of French and German wares underselling those of Great Britain, and various other ideas founded chiefly upon a supposition that the Orders in Council do actually blockade the whole Continent, which they in no sense pretend to do—and that British industry, skill, and capital, stand in need of such a blockade and monopoly to resist foreign competition. The few *facts* which this evidence contains, relate to the alleged increase of trade in British America, the Mediterranean, and South America, an increase which no one of the witnesses pretended was in any respect equal to the trade of the United States, and which it was also

admitted, did not compensate for the diminution of the foreign European market.

An example of this may suffice: all the gentlemen examined in favour of the Orders in Council, rested their chief defence on their preventing France, and the countries subject to her, from either importing cotton, &c. for their manufactures, or exporting goods to rival our own. Yet these gentlemen all admitted, when farther pressed in examination, that the Orders in Council do not prohibit either importation or exportation through the ports in the North of Europe, and South of Italy; and that the best vent for most of those articles is through the ports left free by the Orders—such as Altona and the Baltic. They also allowed that France herself imposed a duty of 3s. or 4s. a pound on cotton, instead of appearing to feel the effects of our prohibiting its importation. See evidence of Messrs. Finlay, Wilson, Gladstone, and others.

It was intended to have added to this Abstract an Abbreviation of the Evidence given at the Bar of the House of Lords; but, although repeated applications were made, it was found impossible to procure the Minutes in time; this disappointment is much to be regretted, for many additional facts are there stated in proof of the ruinous effects of the Orders in Council.

admitted, did not compensate for the diminution of the foreign European market.

An example of this may suffice: all the gentlemen examined in favour of the Orders in Council, rested their chief defence on their preventing France, and the countries subject to her, from either importing cotton, &c. for their manufactures, or exporting goods to rival our own. Yet these gentlemen all admitted, when farther pressed in examination, that the Orders in Council do not prohibit either importation or exportation through the ports in the North of Europe, and South of Italy; and that the best vent for most of those articles is through the ports left free by the Orders—such as Altona and

ERRATUM.

Mr. Whitehouse's evidence (corrected 125), instead of, wages being reduced from $7\frac{1}{2}$ *to* 10 *per cent.* ought to be *from* 15 *to* 20 *per cent.*

OMITTED

In Mr. Bayley's Evidence, p. 11.—The demand for Sheffield goods in the home trade has considerably decreased; the falling off in several of the large towns has been one-fourth. (134)

MANUFACTURES.

(1.) *Birmingham and the Neighbourhood.*

MR. THOMAS ATTWOOD, the High Bailiff of *Birmingham*, stated the population of Birmingham, and the neighbouring manufacturing districts to be 400,000 souls, all employed in the Iron trade, in Hardwares, and similar descriptions of manufactures (*Com. Evid. p.* 1). Every branch of the Iron trade in a deplorable state, master manufacturers turning off their workmen; labourers, that 12 months ago could obtain in the Iron works 20s. a week, cannot now obtain more than 10s. or 12s. Manufacturers of iron working without any profit (2). Export trade of Birmingham chiefly confined to the United States of America; the stoppage of which has reduced the manufacturers to a state of grievous affliction (3). Manufacturers of Birmingham have absorbed the principal part of their capital in stock, and if the trade is not re-opened, will be compelled to discharge probably one-third of their hands, and limit the remainder to one-half or two-thirds work; at present they have not above half employment (5). The value of these manufactures consists almost entirely of labour; attributes the cessation of intercourse with America principally to the Orders in Council (6). Labouring mechanics of Birmingham and the neighbourhood, in a state of dreadful distress (15); believes the greater part arises from the stoppage of the trade to America (16). The exportation of Birmingham goods to the continent of Europe very small (18).

Mr. WILLIAM WHITEHOUSE, Nail Ironmonger, of *West Bromwich*, near Birmingham, never knew the Nail trade in so bad a state. Greatest depression began in August, 1810, and has since been continually increasing. Formerly employed from 1,200 to 1,500 persons, men, women, and children; now employs from 500 to 700; began to turn off his hands six months ago (19). If trade continues in its present state, must discharge more hands. In the Nail district, from 25,000 to 30,000 per-

sons were employed in the Nail trade when it was in a flourishing state. About two-thirds or three-fourths of this number now employed, but at wages reduced about $7\frac{1}{2}$ and 10 per cent. Required to work from five or six in the morning till eleven or twelve at night to earn the average wages of 12s. per week (20). Nails are not an article of export to the continent of Europe. On a restoration of the intercourse with the United States, he would take back the hands which he has discharged, and could keep them in full employ (22). Is sure that if the export trade to America was again opened, the whole of the manufacturers in West Bromwich, in the Nail trade, would find employment (24).

Mr. THOMAS POTTS, Merchant of *Birmingham*.—From 20,000 to 25,000 men in Birmingham, who have now only half work (28). General state of the town extremely depressed, and the distress universal. Manufacturers have been keeping their men employed in creating stock, nearly to the extent of their capital, and many of them are in consequence in extreme difficulties. If no favourable change takes place, the manufacturers will be obliged within two months, to dismiss two-thirds of their hands, and some of them the whole. Large quantities of Birmingham Goods have been lying in Liverpool, waiting for shipment for 12 to 15 months past (29). The American Market, a steady and increasing one, and the payments which have been regularly improving, now very good (30). Since the prohibition in America, goods have been sent to Canada, but they have sold there for less than their cost in the manufacturing towns (31). Has tried the South American Market with very indifferent success, and has concluded never to make another shipment to that country, as he believes those shipments have not yielded 25 per cent (32). Manufactures in America have made an alarming progress within two years, but thinks that if the intercourse was speedily thrown open, they would be effectually checked. Would ship his goods to America the moment the Orders in Council were rescinded, having positive and specific instructions from his correspondents to that effect (33). Knows Houses in Birmingham, who have goods ready to ship to

America, which cost them £70,000. £50,000. £45,000. £20,000. and £25,000. Workmen have emigrated from Birmingham to America (34). Has no doubt, that if the American Trade was opened, the distress in Birmingham would instantly cease (36).

Mr. JOSEPH SHORE, Merchant of *Birmingham*, and Exporter of Hardwares to the Continent of Europe, and formerly shipped to the amount of £50,000. to £80,000. per annum. This trade has decreased very materially; it has diminished within the last three or four years, and especially during the last year (36). Has shipped to South America, but will never export any more to that part of the world. Some of his neighbours, in addition to the total loss of their goods, have had charges to pay upon them. Workmen of Birmingham, and the neighbourhood, in a state of great distress although the manufacturers have till now given them partial employment, in the hope that the American Trade would be opened (37). In 1808, took an estimate, in conjunction with other gentlemen, of the number of workmen employed in Birmingham and the neighbourhood, for the American Trade. Found the number to be 50,000, exclusive of those employed in the Nail Trade, which were about 30,000, and two-thirds of these being employed for America, made the total number about Seventy Thousand (38). Goods similar to some made at Birmingham, are manufactured on the Continent, cheaper than ours, but much worse in quality (39). Thinks the manufacturers of Birmingham would not fear the competition in any Foreign Market (40).

Mr. JAMES RYLAND of *Birmingham*, Manufacturer of plated coach harness and saddle furniture.—Principal part of his manufacture exported to the United States. Previous to 1808 the export was very considerable and increasing, the returns prompt, and payment sure. Workmen who formerly earned 30 to 40s. per week, now get about 20s.; and those who used to get 20s. now earn about 11 or 12s. Shelves loaded with stock, and the greater part of his capital absorbed in it (48). Two-thirds of the workmen employed in this business must be discharged if no

favorable change takes place. Since the falling off of the American market has opened a house in London, but has found so many persons flocking to the same market that he has been able to carry it on with very little success. Previous to the Orders in Council, the trade was in a very flourishing state: they were full of orders, and their men full of work (49). Has received no relief from the South American market; and knows no market equal to that of the United States, for the sale of this manufacture (51).

Mr. RICHARD SPOONER, Banker of *Birmingham*, and connected with the nail trade.—The trade of Birmingham in a most deplorable state; and never recollects a period of similar distress (52). Merchants and manufacturers have accumulated great stocks of goods, and many of the manufacturers reduced to great difficulties. Knows it to be their intention to discharge their workmen in the event of things not taking a favorable turn (53). Emigration of workmen from Birmingham to America increased very rapidly of late (54). Loss of foreign trade has created a competition which has destroyed the profit of the home trade (55). Manufactures of Birmingham sent to America, were chiefly for the consumption of that country, and not for re-exportation (59).

Mr. WILLIAM BLAKEWAY, Lamp Manufacturer of *Birmingham*.—Goods principally sent to America.—Trade so much diminished that he would have stopped his trade altogether, had it not been for regard for his workmen, by whom he has been gaining money for twenty years. Stock so much accumulated that nearly the whole of his capital is absorbed by it (59). Unless the American market is opened cannot keep on his hands at all. Has hitherto borne the sufferings of his workmen himself, but will be compelled to discharge them, however reluctant to do so. Has sought but not found relief in any other market. Recollects the scarcity in 1800 and 1801, but the distress was not at all equal to the present, because there was plenty of work (60).

Mr. THOS. MESSENGER, Brass Founder, of *Birmingham*.—

About half of his manufacture for the American market (63). Has considerably reduced the number of his hands. Workmen require considerable time to learn this business; masters will not take apprentices under the present state of things; so that if the trade revived he is convinced orders could not be executed for want of workmen. Trade to America in this line a very increasing one (64). In good times 4,000 to 5,000 persons engaged in the Brass Foundry trade. Other manufacturers suffering full as much as himself. Home market is unimportant among the numbers which contend for it, and will not defray the expences of the trade: it was much greater before the American trade was lost (65).

Mr. JEREMIAH RIDOUT, Merchant of *Birmingham*. Has goods to the value of 20,000l. prepared for the American market, which he would instantly ship if the Orders in Council were removed, being so advised by his partner in America (67). The workmen very much distressed; "I have seen people shed "tears; I have confined myself behind the door for fear of "seeing those people, lest they should importune me to give "them orders; they have told me they did not know what to "do. One man said, what can I do; if I go to the magistrate "he will tell me to go for a soldier; I am a married man, and "God knows what I must do unless I steal, and then I shall go "to Botany Bay.—I do not like to hear such words, I cannot "bear it (68)."

Mr. GEORGE ROOM, Japanner of *Birmingham*, has manufactured principally for America, which is the best market he ever knew after trying every one (72). Workmen in general have not more than half work. Has tried the home trade, but the competition is so great, and the prices so much reduced that it is not worth going after (73). Has found very little relief from the trade to Sicily and Portugal, which is the only foreign European trade they have had, and which does not bear any thing like a comparison to the American trade (74). From 600 to 1,000 hands employed in this business in Birmingham alone,

and there are great manufactories in Bilston and Wolverhampton (75).

Mr. ROBERT FIDDIAN, Manufacturer of Brass Candlesticks, &c. at *Birmingham*, chiefly for home consumption. Trade much diminished within the last 12 months, and earnings of workmen reduced one-fourth. Had a conversation with some of his men on the subject of dismission: they intreated him not to dismiss them, saying, " you know we cannot get employment " elsewhere," and begged that I would apportion the work among them, and let each bear a share of the burden. Stock very much increasing, and will be obliged to dismiss a number of his men, unless an alteration takes place speedily (77). Has no doubt that his trade would be put into its former profitable situation, if the American trade was again opened (79).

Mr. JOSEPH WEBSTER, Wire Manufacturer of *Birmingham*. Half his manufacture for the American market, and half for the home trade. The demand very much diminished, so that although his manufacture is reduced, his stock is much increased. Has orders from America which would exhaust all his great stock on hand, if the Orders in Council were repealed. If no favourable change takes place, he shall feel himself compelled to discharge a great number of his men (80).

Mr. BENJAMIN COOK, Jeweller and Gilt Toy Maker, *Birmingham*. The greatest part of the goods he has manufactured since the fall of 1810, has been for stock: used to employ between 40 and 50 hands before the stoppage of the American trade: has now only two apprentices, and one woman and a man occasionally. Supposes more than 7,000 hands used to be employed in these branches of business (87). Other masters in the trade, generally speaking, in the same state as himself. The Gilt Toy trade the worst of all to lay by a stock in; the change of fashion such, that if goods are kept a year or two, some of the articles, which were worth 20s. would not be worth 20d. Americans have been forced to begin manufacturing these articles for themselves (88).

Near 17,000 houses in Birmingham, 11,000 of which do not pay poor rates or taxes. The raw materials form a very small proportion of the value of Gilt Toy goods (89).

Mr. THOMAS ILLIDGE, Japanner, *Wolverhampton*—Manufactures partly for the American and partly for the country trade. Trade fallen off considerably since 1810. Has been working the last six months principally for stock. In one branch of the business, has since Christmas restricted the work given to his men about two-thirds. Believes the other masters in the same trade at Wolverhampton, are working for stock: the state of trade very bad. Has tried the market of Canada, but lost considerably (92). Made a shipment to South America; the goods and expenses about 250l.; returns made in cotton, which only produced 28l. The goods were selected by a Portuguese, as suitable to the market, and sent through the medium of a very respectable house in Bristol. Country trade never in so bad a state with the witness. (93). A greater number of manufacturers in the Japanned line at Bilston, about 3 miles from Wolverhampton, who are in a still more distressed state. If there be not an alteration in the state of the trade, must dismiss a great part of his hands (94).

Mr. JOSHUA SCHOLFIELD, American Merchant, *Birmingham*.—Trade first began to fall off in 1808. In 1809, rather better but still very limited. In 1810, very large shipments for one season (98). The goods for 1811 now lying in Liverpool. Has orders from America to ship as soon as the Orders in Council are removed, as soon as the Trade is opened. Has had frequent advices from their agent resident in America, that manufactures are very fast increasing there, and has reason to know it from particular circumstances. One particular article now in great demand is Card Wire, for the manufacture of Cotton and Wool Cards, which is wanted for their machinery. Has had the article of Nails countermanded on the ground that they can be manufactured cheaper in America than they can be imported (99). Has had many painful opportunities of witnessing the distress which prevails among the lower orders of the people in Birmingham, believes it to be extreme. Has a Warehouse in

Wolverhampton, the lower orders in quite as great distress there; their goods may be bought at any price; there are many small manufacturers there, who are selling some of their stock at, he believes, a lower rate than it cost them (100). Attributes the distresses of the Trade and Manufactures principally to the Orders in Council, believing them to be the cause of the Non-intercourse with America (102). Has the most painful forebodings that the continuance of the restrictions upon the American Trade will give great encouragement to the increase of manufactures in America (104).

Mr. HENRY DUNBAR, Button Maker, *Birmingham*.—Manufactures chiefly for the American market. Trade first began to fall off in 1808. Used to employ about 70 hands: has discharged some, and others have left him. Allows only from three to four days' work a week to those he now has: they used to work six days a week, sometimes fourteen hours a day: they now work only about eight. Those hands who used to get from 40s. to 50s. per week, now earn only from 10s. to 15s. The goods he has been making are now in his warehouse. If things should not take a favourable turn, must discharge his workmen, and sell his goods by auction. Has not capital to go on any further. Has kept on so many of his hands partly out of charity, and partly because he expected the trade would get better. Has been obliged to keep some valuable hands at a great expense, because of the difficulty of getting such hands if the trade opened again. A great number of hands employed in this trade in Birmingham (105). Has attempted to get relief from the home market; but there are so many competitors in it, that it is very bad. The distresses of his workmen are now very great indeed. On a Saturday night he is obliged to get his foreman to pay; it is so hurtful to his feelings to see people with such calamitous stories. Believes all the other houses in the same line of business, connected with the American trade, are much in the same situation as himself, and conceives that most of them are more or less so connected. Supposes more than half of the whole trade is for the American market. If the trade to America were opened, could dispose of all the stock he has laid up since Feb. 1811 (106).

WM. BANNISTER, Plater, *Birmingham.*—Seven-eighths of his manufacture for the American market. Has been in that line of business 24 years; used to employ 120 hands. Trade fell off in 1808. Has had nothing to do for America since February and March 1811 (106). Has discharged one-third of his hands, and does not give those who remain more than one-half work. Those who used to earn 45s. per week, do not now get above 20s. or 21s., which is very low wages indeed for that kind of work, which requires very much practice and learning. By keeping on his hands, has accumulated stock to the amount of 5,000l. When trade is open, has no stock at all. Knows a great many others in the same trade who are similarly circumstanced: does not know one that is full of work. Not a consumption in the country trade. Supposes near 2,000 hands are employed in Birmingham in this line. If things do not take a favourable turn, intends to discharge all his hands excepting the apprentices: cannot employ them for want of capital. Has orders now in the warehouse which, if the American trade was opened, would take off almost all his stock (107).

JOSEPH STANLEY, Screw Maker, *Wolverhampton.* Half of his manufacture for the American market. The country trade fallen off. A great number of workmen in this branch of business dismissed (95). Since February 1811, has not had three months employ for the generality of his hands, although he has reduced their work about one-fifth. Has done every thing he could to support some servants he has had for twenty years, who knew not where to get employment elsewhere; for this purpose has risked every penny he is worth, notwithstanding he has a family (96).

THOMAS OSLER, Glass Toy and Button Maker, *Birmingham.* Trade began to fall off in the beginning of 1808. Manufactured chiefly for the American market. Previous to that time the goods were sent in a finished state to America. Since 1808 he had orders to a considerable amount for articles in an unfinished state. Throughout 1808 and the greatest part of 1809 there was such a defalcation in the whole trade as induced him to

turn his hands into another line of business. Went into the Chandelier Furniture line for the home trade. Found relief in that business at first, but it has since fallen off very greatly. Has not had any orders for the American market since 1810. Has continued to employ his hands, from 80 to 100 (96). Has been working chiefly for stock. Unless some favourable change of circumstances takes place, cannot continue to go on much longer, his capital being almost entirely absorbed. Is assured that the situation of others in the same line of business is similar to his own. Will be obliged to turn off his hands if the present state of things continues. Before the Orders in Council were issued had a good trade, since then has had none, comparatively speaking. Believes the loss of his trade has arisen from the Orders in Council. Has not received American orders in the same way he used to do previous to the Orders being issued. (97.) The business of the Chandelier Furniture making, in which he engaged for the home trade has been so divided that he has not a tenth part of what he used to have. Thinks there are as many articles made; but there being so many persons in it in consequence of the state of the Glass Toy Trade, the pressure is as great upon those who are engaged in it as if there were not a a tenth part made (97).

Mr. THOMAS CLARKE, Manufacturer of Webbing, Braces, and Toys, *Birmingham*. Has employed as many as a hundred and fifty hands. Now employs between 70 and 80; discharged the others in consequence of not being permitted to execute the orders on his books for the American merchants. A very large proportion of his trade for the American market. Upwards of a thousand hands employed in the same line in Birmingham. Has no doubt that others in the same trade are similarly situated as himself. The prices of almost every article in the Country Trade have been lowering in consequence of competition, which has increased. Notwithstanding the diminution of hands, has accumulated stock very considerably (108).

Mr. BENJAMIN SMITH, Manufacturer of Heavy Steel Toys, *Birmingham*.—More than one-third of his manufacture

for foreign markets, chiefly for the American (108). Has a great stock on hand. Has kept on his hands, hoping that something would increase the trade by-and-by. The home trade very much on the decline. Within these six months, has had one person twice, and another once, in London to endeavour to get orders, who have scarcely paid their expenses. Has got some orders, but there has been no profit attached to them when the expense was paid. Those he had spoke to on the subject, in the same trade, seemed to be in the same situation. Since the defalcation of the American trade, the home trade has become unprofitable (109).

Mr. THOMAS MILWARD, Spoon Maker, *Birmingham.*—Trade began to fall off in 1808. Was last year very bad, and is still so. Has got plenty of orders in the warehouse, which he is directed by the merchants to send in immediately the Orders in Council are repealed. A few hands in this business get up a good deal of work. Believes other Spoon manufacturers are in the same situation as himself. In 1810 the trade very good (110). Has a greater stock of goods on hand than ever he had. All the variations of his business were dependent upon whether there was or not at the time an open intercourse with America. Sells very little except to the American merchants (111). Had conditional orders to send in, the moment the Orders in Council were repealed: could not get goods enough in that case (112).

---

(2) *Sheffield.*

Mr. JOHN BAILEY, Merchant, of *Sheffield.*—The manufactures of Sheffield for the supply of the market of the United States, employ 6,000 persons, besides others dependent on that trade. The export to America is about one-third of the whole manufactures of Sheffield (132). About one-tenth of the usual spring shipment was made in 1811, and none since (133). Stock of goods has been increasing in Sheffield to a considerable extent; but there are orders for shipment to America, immediately on the rescinding of the Orders in Council (134). In-

formation from a large manufacturer, that he now pays one-sixth part of the wages which he did when the American trade was open; and that one-half of what he has manufactured for the last fifteen months, is now dead stock. Another of the principal manufacturers informed him, that he now employs only half of his usual number of men, whom he employs only four days in a week; that he retains them from a principle of humanity, as they have grown old in his service, and that he still holds in stock all his goods made in the last eighteen months. Believes this to be a fair specimen of the general state of manufactures in Sheffield. His orders for shipment, on the removal of the Orders in Council, amount to the whole twelve months' shipments (135). The amount of Sheffield goods ready for shipment to America 400,000l., and orders on hand to the same amount. Poor rates of Sheffield, year ending 1807, 11,000l.; now 18,000l. Workmen's wages not reduced, but they are now only employed about three days in the week. Every man fully employed before the loss of the American trade. Lower classes never so much distressed as at present (136). Some articles which were formerly exported from Sheffield, are now manufactured in America (138).

Mr. GEORGE NAYLOR, Merchant and Maker of Knives and Forks, in *Sheffield*.—His mercantile business almost wholly to the United States, and about five-sixths of his manufacture. During the free trade, employed about 250 hands; now employs about 98, of whom 57 are half employed, 29 one-third, 8 one-sixth, and 4 one-eighth. The change took place about the middle of 1811 (145). Stock has been accumulating since the end of 1810. Has orders to ship goods to America on the repeal of the Orders in Council, and read four letters from his correspondents in America to that effect (146, 147). If this inquiry should end unfavourably, would dismiss every workman. Stock of goods equal to the sales of one year, and the other persons in the same business cannot continue their workmen much longer (148).

Mr. EBENEZER RHODES, Manufacturer of Cutlery and Dealer in Manufactures at *Sheffield*.—Trade fell off in 1811. In one branch of business, he has discharged one-fourth of his

hands, and in another a half. Increase of stock in one branch two-thirds; in another business about one-fourth. Great distress prevailing in Sheffield for want of employment (154).

---

(3) *The Potteries.*

Mr. JOSIAH WEDGWOOD, of the *Potteries.*—The distress in the Potteries greater than it was ever known before. Till the latter end of 1807, one-third of his manufacture for the European market; the remainder for the home trade. Since then the shipment has been inconsiderable, and the competition being great, the price in the home market very much reduced; say from 20 to 25 per cent. This has chiefly occurred since the loss of the American market. His shipment to Heligoland has been attended with a loss (157). Understands about one-third of the bulk or number of packages of goods manufactured in the Potteries, are for the American market, and one-fourth of the value (160).

Mr. RALPH STEVENSON, of the *Potteries.*—About one-half his manufacture for the American market, which has been closed since February 1811. The home trade also depressed. In full times employs about 150 hands (161). Now about 100 at two-thirds work. The Potteries employ about 14,000 hands; now employ about 10,000 at about two-thirds work. Has considerable orders from America to be executed the moment the Orders in Council are rescinded, and funds are ready for the payment. Shipped to Holland and Germany till the end of 1806. Has since shipped to Heligoland, on which there was a loss of 50 per cent. Shipments to Rio Janeiro have been a total loss, paying only freight and charges, and in some instances not that (162). At Buenos Ayres the market glutted, and his accounts state that some British manufactures would not pay for the warehousing. Trade to the West Indies declined, and in a very bad state. Has shipped to British America, but the speculation has not succeeded. Has shipped to Sicily and Malta, where the loss was 25 to

30 per cent. (163). The number of Potteries formerly about 140, of which about 35 have completely stopped within the last two years. Fifteen or sixteen failures have occurred within the last eighteen months, being a greater number than during the ten preceding years. Stocks of goods very large, and if foreign markets are not opened, many more hands must be discharged. One-third of the Potteries was employed for America (164), and has no doubt that if the American trade was opened, all the goods suited for that market would be taken off as fast as they could be packed (165). The American market was an increasing one, both in quantity and value; the payments very good, and infinitely better than the home trade. A great part of the bulky materials for this manufacture, are brought coastwise from Gravesend, from Dorsetshire and Devonshire to Liverpool, which in good times amount to 40,000 tons yearly; and this coasting trade is decreased owing to the present state of the Potteries (167). An open trade to America would remove the distress of the Potters in Staffordshire. Has heard of two Potteries established in America; that large offers have been made to workmen to leave this country for America, and that some have actually gone.

---

(4) *Woollen Manufactures of Yorkshire.*

Mr. WILLIAM THOMPSON, Woollen Manufacturer, of *Rawden, near Leeds.*—Has been in business 30 years. In 1810 employed 650 hands, and manufactured 6,000 pieces of goods for the American market (229). In the last year made 4,000 pieces, and has dismissed 200 hands. His stock of goods worth upwards of 90,000l. being much greater than at any former period. The remaining hands have not more than one-third work. In good times his men earned from 16s. to 30s. a week (230); and now only one-third. Never knew the poor in so distressed a state before; not even when corn was dearer in 1800, they had plenty of work at that time. "The distress of the workmen is "very evident by their countenances, and by the raggedness of "their dress: they are evidently in a worse situation than I ever

"knew them before." If a favourable change does not take place, must dismiss the whole of his hands, as the heavy stock of goods renders it out of his power to continue them. Made a small shipment to South America about twelve months ago, but has not yet received any returns; and will not ship farther at present (231). Made a shipment to Canada, value 30,000l. about fourteen months ago, for which he has not yet received one-sixth; and those goods that did sell were to a considerable loss, say from 25 to 30 per cent. (232). If there was an open trade to America, all the distresses would be very shortly removed: "activity would be resumed, and the countenances of the poor "would change very fast: if that were once effected, it would give "a general spring to our neighbourhood" (235). Has orders from America for the whole of his goods, provided the Orders in Council were rescinded (236).

Mr. JOSEPH WALKER, Merchant, of *Leeds*.—Shipped to America in 1808 to the value of 42,000l. Trade as good as he could wish it in 1810. Has not shipped a bale for seventeen months past, and his stock is now upwards of 25.000l. Shipped to Canada in 1808, and for goods amounting to 4,000l. received 1,000l. and never expects to receive any more (239). The accumulation of stock is common to all persons trading to America. Has orders from America for double the amount of his stock, on the Orders in Council being revoked (240). From observations made with others, believes that the Woollens shipped from Yorkshire to America, are of the value of two millions yearly (241). Price of goods suited to the American market has fallen about 8 or 10 per cent. within the last twelve months (242).

Mr. CHRISTOPHER LAWSON, Woollen Merchant, of *Leeds*. —In good times exported to America, to the value of £80,000. annually. Present stock of goods £40,000. Made a shipment to Amelia Island, in 1811, under the idea that it might get into America, but it remains there at present (242). Conceives all the merchants trading to America are in the same state. The common calculation is, that Yorkshire goods are exported to America to the amount of two millions annually. Great com-

plaints have been made of the home market for the last six months (243). Has orders for goods to be shipped to America on the repeal of the Orders in Council (244).

Mr. THOMAS DENNISON, Woollen Manufacturer, and one of the Trustees of the Cloth Hall at *Leeds*.—In the district where he resides, there is a population of 2,000 to 3,000 persons, a great part of whom are in the Woollen Manufacture, and about two-thirds were for the American Market, the rest for the Home Trade (245). In the latter end of 1810 the market failed and has been very flat ever since. The stock on hand is very great, and very many hands have been turned off. About two months ago, the quantity of cloth manufactured was not more than one-third the usual quantity, and one-half of the men were out of employ; if they could get a little work in any other employment, they regularly attended to it to get a little bread by it. The making of army clothing has been an alleviation (245). The state of the poor, and of the lower orders in his district is such, "that if you were to see the very many of their "pale faces, and their ragged coats, you would be struck with "the sight of it. The distress is so great I cannot express it, it "is impossible. I have been a manufacturer for 28 years, and "I never saw any think equal to it, at any time." According to a statement returned by the rest of the Trustees, believes about eleven or twelve districts, out of the fifteen, nearly bear a similar appearance of distress. It appears that the distresses in the district, and the want of Trade, arise principally from the want of intercourse with America, for when this intercourse was open, the goods when manufactured, were brought to market, and met readily with a market, and since the intercourse has been shut, it has been the reverse (247).

Mr. JOSHUA BECKETT, a Trustee of the Cloth Hall at *Leeds*, for the district of Dewsbury.—In this district abont 3000 persons are employed in the Clothing Trade (247). Stock of goods is not great, because the manufacturers have been long sinking, not being able to sell their goods at prime cost. About four years ago considered that more than half of the manufac-

tures were for the American market, which is now shut up. Poor Rates doubled since 1807. Manufacturers have been obliged to sell goods for 10 per cent. less than prime cost. From the observations which he has made, and the general returns of the other Trustees, believes that ten or eleven out of the fifteen districts are in a worse situation than the district of Dewsbury (248).

Mr. JOHN OXLEY, Woollen Merchant of *Wakefield*.—Was examined four years ago upon the Orders in Council. Principal part of his trade to America. Stock on hand value upwards of £30,000. much greater than at any former period. The Home Trade never so bad as at present (249). Never knew the lower class of people, in the district where he resides, in so bad a state as at present (250).

Mr. GEORGE RAWSON, Stuff Merchant of *Leeds*.—Formerly engaged chiefly in the German Trade, which closed in 1806, and then increased his connexion with America. This trade was very considerable in 1808, but the greatest profits were in 1810. Has made no shipment since January 1811. Stock of goods has accumulated to the value of £.10,000, and has orders for the whole for the American Market, on the rescinding of the Orders in Council (253). Has made no shipment to the Continent since 1806, knowing that the attempts of others have failed. Made a shipment to South America about three years ago, of goods prepared by order for the Lisbon Market, on the closing of which they were sent to Rio Janiero. " The goods were on hand upwards of two years, and then our " agent at Rio Janiero made a trial with one bale to Buenos " Ayres, and the bale was there sold at a very great loss; it " was valued at £.160, and the net proceeds were 4l. 18s. 8d. " the other six bales were consequently returned home. The loss " upon the whole shipment was nearly £500" (254.) The state of his trade is common to all the houses in the Stuff Trade, and some feel it still more seriously, being limited entirely to the American trade. Number of persons employed in the Stuff Trade supposed to be about 10,000, including, men, women,

and children. Has orders for double the amount of his stock, provided the Orders in Council were rescinded (255). Some houses in the Stuff Trade, who have shipped to South America, have had no returns whatever. Continues to purchase from the little makers every week, but his stock is increasing, and shall be obliged to decline it shortly, not having the means to continue to take in goods. Wages of Stuff Weavers of low goods about 9s. a week, fine goods nearly double, but the average about 12s. (256). Has reason to conclude, that if the Non Importation Laws in America were repealed, a great part of the distress among the manufacturers of Yorkshire would be removed. Can now buy goods for 10 per cent. less than they were six months ago, and 15 per cent. cheaper than they were in 1810 (257). Conceives the American Market takes off one-fourth of the manufacture of stuffs (259), and that one half is for home consumption (260).

Mr. DAVID SHEARD, Blanket and Flushing Manufacturer, of the parish of *Dewsbury*.—In good times employed about 800 hands, 100 of them are now quite out of employ, and the remainder have one-third or one-fourth work. The average wages of men, women, and children in good times were 11s. a week, and are now 3s. 9d. The manufacturers have given over accumulating stock; they do not wish to run into debt, and the money they have is all made up into goods. Weekly wages paid in the hamlet, in good times, used to be 469l. now 294l. Thinks the home trade as good as it was. Trade began to fall off in the beginning of 1811, and among the lower orders of people there is very great distress indeed (260). If favourable circumstances do not turn up, will be obliged to turn off half of the 700 hands he now employs. Had a good trade before the intercourse with America was stopped (261).

Mr. FRANCIS PLATT, Merchant, and Woollen Manufacturer, of *Saddleworth*.—The trade has fallen off very considerably since 1810, owing to the want of the American trade. His own stock of goods larger than it ever was before, being nearly 30,000l. (454). The district of Saddleworth contains a popula-

tion of nearly 12,000 persons, most of whom are engaged in the Woollen business, and they do not now get half the work they used to have. His capital absorbed in goods, and if there is not a market soon, must discharge his men *in toto*; which is the case with the manufacturers in general in that district. In 40 or 50 years, he has never known the distress equal to the present. Great numbers of the people never taste animal food at all; their principal food is oatmeal boiled in water (455); and sometimes potatoes for dinner. Was informed, "by a very honest man, "that he, his wife, and all his children, had to go to bed, and "had not even a morsel of that oatmeal and water to put into "their mouths. Was also informed by another that he had got "some little oatmeal, and boiled it in water; that he had to wet "it in water, instead of milk, or any other liquid, with his food." The people have been very peaceable in this parish, and is certain they will remain so, provided they could get employment, or any thing near full employment: they have no disposition at all to riot. Was in America from September 1810 to February 1812. Saw the Merino Wool which is raised in America; it was good Wool for making a cloth of 18s. a yard. It was remarked to him that the Merino Wool seemed to improve in America: had samples shewn to him which appeared very good wool, and as if it might have improved. The quality of the Wool of the American sheep in general is not fine (456). Believes the Americans did not pay much attention to the growth of Wool till within the time that these restrictive measures had taken place between the two Governments. Previous to that, they imported their Woollens, which they conceived to answer their purpose better than to manufacture them; and that it answered their purpose better to cultivate their corn, and to import their manufactured articles (457). Has inquired in some instances whether the poor have received parish relief, but believes that "in the principal part of the manufacturing districts, the poor "would nearly starve, probably not to death, but pretty close to "it, before they went to the parish: for this reason—they have "not been accustomed to it, and it is a kind of disgrace or "something of that kind, and they will not go to it if they can "get half work and half wages: they will take every means in

" their power to keep off the parish" (458). Oatmeal is 3½d. to 4d. a pound, or double the usual price. Potatoes are about the same proportion: never knew them any thing like so high as they are at present (459). Has no doubt that if goods could be shipped to America, there would be work. The poor are not well clothed (461).

Mr. JOHN BUCKLEY, Manufacturer, of *Saddleworth*.—His men at present not half employed. From 200 to 300 persons of small capital are engaged in the manufacture of Saddleworth, and many of them have now all their capital in stock. The distress among the lower orders is very great; it is beyond description. Two-thirds of the manufacture of this district were for the American market, and has no doubt that the distress arises from the want of that market. Shipments have been made to Halifax and Canada, which have not succeeded. If the American trade was open, it would put the labourers in full employment again (462).

Mr. THOS. GREENWOOD, Cotton and Woollen Manufacturer, of *Halifax*.—The trade bad at present. Woollen trade fell off nearly one-half in 1811, and the Cotton trade affected a little (127). When trade was in a prosperous state, probably employed from 800 to 1,000 workmen; but the falling off in 1811 has reduced them to about 600 to 700 (130).

(Cotton.)

Mr. JAMES HOLFORTH, Cotton Spinner at *Leeds*.—Employs about 200 hands, to whom he gives one-half labour, and if there is no favourable change, intends to stop his works when the Cotton now on hand is worked up. There are four similar establishments in Leeds and the neighbourhood, two of which are now standing still, and a third is only working three days in a week. For the last twelve years has sold about 400 bundles of Twist a week, and now sells not more than 50. His customers inform him their stocks of goods are increasing very fast, so much so, that their means and their credit are almost

exhausted (268). Their goods were sold principally for exportation.—" I had a very heavy stock on the first of January, since " which it has been considerably increased; I have now many " thousand bundles of Twist on hand. The people to whom I " sold cannot pay, and a number to whom I sold have failed and " become bankrupts, or made assignments. Within the last " twelve months I have had very heavy bad debts, in consequence " of which I am reduced to the disagreeable necessity " of spinning three days a week, which I shall do till the whole " of my materials is worked up, and then stop the concern (264).

---

(5) *Rochdale.*

Mr. WILLIAM MIDGLEY, Woollen Manufacturer of *Rochdale, Lancashire.*—The Parish contains about 36,000 inhabitants (195), of which about one half is employed in this manufacture. He formerly employed about 600 hands, now about 400. Began to turn off his hands when his stocks became very large, about six months ago (196). Stock is still increasing, and larger than it ever was before, and the home trade is fallen off very much indeed. Has in a considerable degree exhausted his capital in trade, " and if there be not an opening it is impossible to keep " on my work people; and I am distressed about the poor peo- " ple, for they have not, many of them, half victuals now." If the market continues as it is now, must turn off 200 of his hands, and if they are turned off, does not see where they can get work any where else (197). Has lived in Rochdale most of his lifetime, and been in business thirty years, but never knew the distress so great as at present. " The distress is to be seen in the " people's countenances, every week getting thinner and looking " worse; those that had a little money have had to take to it, " and they are almost run out of it; they have spent what little " they had to buy bread." About two-fifths of this manufacture for the United States of America, and none for Foreign Europe (198). Has very large orders for America, which should

have gone off more than 12 months ago. Has found that market, a steady, sure, and increasing one (199). Workmen's wages reduced. Price of Oatmeal twelve months ago 2d. per pound, now 3d. (200). If the Trade to America was opened, there would be fair employment for the manufacturers of Rochdale (201).

Mr. WILLIAM WALKER, Woollen Manufacturer of *Rochdale.*—Trade formerly to the Continent of Europe, now entirely lost (202). Shipment to South America has yielded about two-thirds the Invoice cost. Shipment to the United States has succeeded very well. Distress of the lower orders never so great as at present. Master manufacturers have employed their people till they have immense stocks on hand, and it is not possible to give them employment much longer (203). Value of goods held by the manufacturers of Rochdale many Hundred Thousand Pounds (204).

Mr. WILLIAM HASTINGS, Woollen Manufacturer of *Rochdale.*—In good times employ 700 to 800 hands, now employs 500 to 600, at about one-third work. About two-fifths of his Trade was for the American market, and the home trade has fallen off nearly one-half. Great distress prevailing in the district of Rochdale. Stock greater than at any former period, and accumulating daily (203). Has lately witnessed the state of the manufacturing districts from Manchester to Inverness, and found it most distressing. Must turn off all his hands if things do not improve. Attributes the failure of trade to the loss of the American Market, and is of opinion that if the American Trade was free, the Trade of Rochdale would be as good as at any former period (206).

Mr. HENRY HOYLE, Woollen Manufacturer at *Rosendale* near *Rochdale.*—When the trade was good employed 100 hands, now not 50 (209). They are not at full work, and if no change takes place, will be obliged to turn them all off immediately. The district of Rosendale contains about 10,000 inhabitants, of whom about one-half are in the Woollen Manufactory. Many

workmen out of employ, and the distress much greater than at any former period (210).

Mr. RICHARD TURNER, Flannel Manufacturer, *Heslingden*, near *Rochdale*. His manufacture about half for America and half for the Home Trade. Present stock of Goods 50,000l. being much greater than it ever was before. Employs about 2,000 hands, and if no favorable change takes place, will be obliged to discharge the greatest part (478, 479).

---

(6) *Bury, Lancashire.*

Mr. JAMES KAY, Cotton and Woollen Manufacturer, near *Bury, Lancashire*.—In full times employs in his Trade 2,500 to 3,000 hands, and has not turned off any considerable proportion of them, as he is waiting the result of this inquiry. Stock in February, 1811, about £10,000. to £15,000. now nearly £50,000., being greater than it ever was before (217), and is very fast increasing. About one half his Cotton manufacture is for America, less than a fourth for the home market, and the remainder for the Brazils, Spain, and Portugal. Price of Manufacturing Cottons per piece, (called Blackburn Supers) May, 1805, 6s. May, 1806, 6s. Nov. 1807, 5s. 6d. Dec. 1807, 5s. Jan. 1808, 4s. 6d. May, 1808, 4s.; when the people were much distressed and rioting. May, 1809, 4s. March, 1810, 7s. April, 6s. May, 1811, 4s.; now 4s. 6d.; the advance on account of the disposition to riot, and the committee of masters recommending it (218). Price of Calicoes after Mr. Erskine's arrangement, 17s. to 18s. a piece; the same quality at present 11s. 6d.; a few months ago when there was an expectation of an opening to America, the price 13s. 6d. the price of cotton, and the wages being the same as now. If the market continues as bad as it is at present, shall dismiss 1,200 to 1,500 hands, when the decision of the House is known about the Orders in Council. His situation with respect to the accumulation of stock, &c. a very common one with respect to many of his neighbours. Motives of humanity induce him to employ his work-

men; has been in business 23 years, and never knew distress equal to the present. In 1800 and 1801, there was distress on account of the high price of provisions, but none from want of work (219). Exported a few Woollens to South America to try the market, but lost 50 per cent. upon them, and two years' interest. The bread of the poor manufacturers is generally made from Oatmeal (220), and the price of meal at Rochdale, which used to be about 40s. per load of 240 pounds, is now 72s. to 80s. A Weaver can now earn 7s. 8s. or 10s. a week, and although the principal food is oat-bread and potatoes, he cannot now support himself, his wife and three children, without assistance from the parish. This is the general situation of the weavers, and many of them have parochial aid, and a number are relieved by voluntary subscriptions. A child of 10 years of age can weave, but less than the father. A female of 15 to 20 can earn nearly as much as a man. In the spinning concern they are at present better off than in the weaving (221). Children of 8 to 10, earn 1s. to 1s. 6d. per week, from 10 to 12, 4s. and 5s. a week. Weavers generally cannot find their children shoes and stockings. Is quite convinced that if there was an open trade with America, there would be no want, with the other trade of the country (222). Present wages paid to females employed in spinning, 16s. to 20s. a week, and warpers, 14s. and 18s. (223).

Mr. JOHN GRUNDY, jun. Woollen Manufacturer of *Bury, Lancashire.*—In good times employs about 600 hands; now employs about 530, having turned off 70 since the latter end of last summer (213). Rate of wages reduced about 5 or 10 per cent., but the employment is also reduced, so that a weaver who received in 1810 a guinea a week, can now only earn half a guinea to 12s. Stock very much increased; in January 1811 it was 1,600, pieces, now 7,000, pieces, worth 20,000l., being a greater stock than he ever had before. About one-half his trade is for the American Market, the other half for the Home Trade, which is also much depressed (214), as he has not now an order for a single piece of goods, which never occurred before since he has been in business. If no favorable change takes place,

must turn off half his present hands. Has orders for one-third of his stock on the opening of the American Trade. The lower orders of people in a state of greater distress than he has ever known before, during 21 years that he has been in business. Distress arising from scarcity in 1800 and 1801 not so great as at present, because there was plenty of work. The motive for employing his present hands is, that many of them have been weavers for his father these forty years, and motives of charity compel him to keep them on, although very injurious to himself (215).

---

(7) *Manchester.*

Mr. SHAKESPEAR PHILLIPS, Merchant of *Manchester.*—Was examined by the House four years ago upon the Orders in Council. Is an exporter of manufactured goods to the United States of America, when the trade is open. Has a great stock of goods on hand, which is the case with the manufacturers in general. Has orders to a very large amount to be shipped in the event of the Orders in Council being rescinded (434). Has no doubt that orders of this kind which are now in Manchester would, if executed, greatly relieve the distress of that place. Read an important letter from his agent, an Englishman, in America, stating that manufactories are increasing there very materially, in consequence of the non-importation system *(vide Appendix)* (435). The state of the workmen in Manchester and the neighbourhood is very deplorable, they are deficient in work, and are working at extremely low wages (436). If the American Trade was open, would not fear the competition of the American manufacturers in the market, as he conceives they are only forced into that measure. Several adventures which he has made to South America have left a considerable loss. Cannot state the proportion which the American Market bears to the general manufactory of Manchester and its neigh-

bourhood, but from his general knowledge of its vast influence upon the manufacture in general, is convinced that the exports annually amount to an enormous sum. Has no doubt that if he American Market was freely open, there would be full employment for the labouring manufacturers of Manchester (437). When the trade with America from France and this Country were both open, did not experience the least competition in the Cotton Manufactories on the part of France, and has not the least apprehension of any. The present duty on raw Cotton in France being about 3s. a pound, amounts to a prohibition; and any country imposing such a duty cannot seriously intend to establish any great manufacture (439).

Mr. THOMAS WITHINGTON, Merchant, of *Manchester*.—Stock of goods 50,000l. the whole for the American market, and 30,000l. of them are actually packed and cased for America, and will go the very day there is an opening. Has written orders to ship them the day he hears of America having taken off her Non-importation Act, or the Orders in Council being repealed. The manufacturers in general are making serious complaints; many of them have a twelve month stock of goods on hand, and cannot dispose of them (289). Price of goods in Manchester was never so low as the latter end of last year, and the beginning of this. The lower orders in a state of great distress; and in one line, the poor people whom he employs assure him they have not one-third work. About 2,500 fustian cutters in Manchester, who are about one-third employed. Was in the United States of America during the year 1810: manufactures were increasing, but did not bear any comparison to the manufactures of this country (290). The increase of manufactures was not much noticed till the prohibition of importation. They make very good twist, and weave very good common goods, and make small wares. If there was an open trade to America, would not apprehend any danger from the competition of American manufactures, unless they were to do that which they talk of, lay an additional duty on importation. At present French goods, especially silks, are selling very low in America. There has been

a great importation of them since the British importation was prevented. As a practical man, should have no apprehension from competition (291).

Mr. GEORGE PALFREYMAN, Manufacturer and Calico Printer, of *Manchester*.—His works at Macclesfield, in Cheshire. Used to employ about 700 hands, but has turned off many during the last year, and now employs from 200 to 230, who are at full wages, but not full work. Retains more men than he has work for, and is thereby the loser (296). The houses who were engaged in the American trade in a state of great depression; believes the American trade took off one-third of the goods. The prices of Calicoes for the last fifteen months lower than they ever were before. Considerable distress in consequence of the number of hands turned out of employment. Has shipped to Heligoland, but the goods came back, as they could not be got into the Continent (297). The trade last year was not more than one-third what it had been upon the average of two years preceding. His own trade is now less than 40,000l. per annum, and for the two preceding years was more than 100,000l. per annum. Ascribes the whole reduction of his trade entirely to the loss of the American market (298).

Mr. THOMAS CARDWELL, Manufacturer of Small Wares, at *Manchester*.—In 1800 employed upwards of 1,000 hands; now employs 500. One-fourth of the trade was for the American market (282). Small amounts are shipped to South America, and to British North America. In the home market, the demand has been tolerably good, the profit very bare, since the American trade fell off. The 500 hands which he now employs are at short work: the wages are considerably reduced on some articles, and in one from 10d. to 6d. a yard. The distress among the lower orders greater than he ever knew it before. There is considerable emigration of workmen, (weavers and printers of Cottons and Calicoes) to America, where they expect to be better employed than in this country (283). Is informed that at a cotton printing concern established in the neighbourhood of Philadelphia; two men who left this country, have in full employ thirty of the men

who were apprentices with them in this country in printing with rollers. Is of opinion that if the manufacturers were fully employed, and had plenty of work and wages in this country, they would not emigrate. Attributes the falling off of this trade, principally to the loss of the American market (284). Believes that the four or five houses immediately in the same trade as himself, have reduced their business in the same proportion (285). The Umbrellas and Braces sent from Manchester to America, amount to 60,000l. to 70,000l. a year (288).

Mr. JOSEPH WEIGHT, Manufacturer and Buyer of Cotton Goods, at *Manchester*.—One concern which he conducted employed from 200 to 300 hands, which are now reduced to 20 (276). In many cases the manufacturers are selling goods for less than the prime cost, which has been more particularly the case within the last year (277). In 1806 and 1807, from the wages given, a weaver by the labour of three weeks and a half, was able to buy a load of flour weighing 240 lbs. From the present rate of wages and price of provisions, he must work ten weeks for the same quantity. The weavers seldom, or perhaps in a very few instances, taste any kind of meat, but subsist entirely on what is made from oatmeal, and on potatoes (278). The manufactures of Manchester in a state of great depression at present (280). There has been a reduction in wages as follows: in Sept. 1806, 14s. were paid; in January 1807, 12s. and at present only 8s. for the same article. The home market is reduced in price, owing to the loss of the American trade (280).

Mr. TIMOTHY WIGGIN, a General Exporter of Manufactures to America (321). Has been in business 13 years, and in 1810 his export was 100,000l. In January 1811, shipped nearly 70,000l. Has since shipped nothing to the United States; but his present Stock is about 50,000l. During the last two years, the article of Nankeen has been almost totally omitted in his orders: a smaller quantity of Cotton Shirting has also been wanted, in consequence of goods of that description being manufactured in or near the place to which he exported them (322). Since the American trade fell off, the fall in the price of goods, and

in the rate of exchange, has enabled him to obtain nearly double the quantity of such goods as he has chosen to purchase, for the same number of dollars invested in exchange on London. The exchange betwen America and England, in common times, seldom varied more than 5 per cent. above or below par. It was high during the embargo, and is now 21½ per cent. against this country (323). French manufactures are plentiful, and selling low in America. The increased price of insurance within the last two or three years, upon produce going from America to France, would make a penny a pound upon the price of sugar, something less upon a pound of cotton, and ashes 4s. 6d. a hundred weight (325). The manufacture of Hats almost excludes the importation of British Hats (328). The extra tonnage duty paid by British ships in America is the same as is paid in this country by American ships. Higher duties are paid in America on goods in British than in American ships (329). And in British ports there is a difference of duty in favour of goods imported in British ships, and in the article of cotton, that difference is a penny a pound. Salt in America, imported from Great Britain, pays no duty, either in American or British ships (330). The prime cost of bowed cotton in America is 4d. to 5½d. per pound; the freight and insurance in Bordeaux would make it 9d. a pound. So that cotton might be delivered in Bordeaux at about 9d. a pound, exclusive of the duties in France. This quality of cotton has been lately sold in Liverpool at 14d. to 16d. British manufactured goods are selling rather dear in America, and French manufactured goods cheap: being of a different description, they do not interfere (331). The means of making insurance are very good in the great towns of America: does not know of any one loss with them, in the course of his business; would trust them much sooner than Lloyd's, and puts them on a par with the insurance companies here. Cotton imported into this country from America, exclusive of duty, would cost 7d. a pound, and 9d. in France exclusive of duty (332). Conceives it would not be possible to substitute French manufactures for English in America (333). The French goods used in the United States are of a different kind from those manufactured in Great Britain.

(8) *Stockport.*

Mr. JEREMIAH BURY, Cotton Manufacturer of *Stockport.*—The population of Stockport is upwards of 20,000; the neighbouring villages and hamlets about 20,000 more, and about three-fourths of the whole are employed in the cotton concern. The trade began to fall off about the beginning of 1811, and for the last eighteen months has been in a very low state indeed. A very good trade to America in 1810. The work people are very much distressed indeed, but not many quite out of employ, as a great many work three or four days in a week. The reduction of wages more than one-half of what was given two years ago (266); but varies in different branches: in some cases where 24s. or 25s. were given, only 9s. or 10s. are now given; and in others 8s. are now given instead of 24s. Rate of wages reduced about 15 per cent. besides the reduction in employment. Many weavers have gone out of the trade, they have been so poorly paid (267, 480). The home trade has diminished as well as the foreign trade. A number of houses have stopped and turned off their hands, and those that have not done so have reduced the employment of their people to eight hours in a day. A great stock of goods accumulated: many stocks have been sacrificed to a very considerable loss (269). Two instalments are paid of the loan of Exchequer Bills, and the manufacturers must sacrifice their stocks to pay the remainder, provided an opening does not take place. The manufacturers he was concerned with will keep on their hands as long as they can, for the sake of preserving peace in the country, for the country is in a very disturbed state indeed. Has known the trade for thirty years, but has never known distress at all equal to the present; both, as it respects the masters and their workmen. Before 1807, made goods for the continental market. Shipped goods to South America, to the value of 4,000l., and after three years loss of interest, got a return of only one-half. The poor people live in cottages, and have been unable, since 1811, to pay any rent. "I have "gone to my own tenants to ask them to pay their rents, and I "have seen them sit down to dinner off a dish of meal and

" porridge, as they call it in Lancashire, meal and water before " them; and I have gone away without asking them for rent. " Potatoes are so dear they cannot buy them" (270). Believes that if there was an opening to America, there would be a sufficient market for the goods. When the continental market was lost, there was the American trade to depend upon; and this being now lost, there is no trade to depend upon (272), If the Orders in Council cause the difference with America, they are the cause of the want of trade; for the shutting up of that trade has been the cause of our immediate distress (273).

Mr. JOHN BENTLEY, Muslin Manufacturer, of *Stockport*. Used to employ 400 to 500 hands; now employs 350. Has been in trade thirty years, and never knew it so depressed, or the poor as badly off as they are at present. Wages about 15 per cent. lower than they were 18 months ago. His stock is greater than it ever was before, having cost upwards of 20,000l. (273), and being ten times as great as it is in ordinary times. Potatoes were two years ago 7s. to 8s. a load of 240lbs. and are now 14s. and 15s. per load. The lower classes live principally on oatmeal and potatoes, and a little milk. Oatmeal is about a third higher than it was two years ago, and flour double the price. The rates paid to weavers for making a piece of Cambric, have varied as follows:—in 1802, 25s.; 1803, 19s.; 1804, 15s.; 1805, 18s.; 1806, 15s.; 1807, 13s.; 1808, 12s.; 1809, 13s.; 1810, 12s.: 1811, 10s.; 1812, 10s. If no favourable change takes place, must turn off a great many hands. Before the last eighteen months, sold one-half of his goods to merchants for shipment, principally American merchants (275). The foreign market has been stopped since the stoppage of the intercourse with the United States of America, so that he believes a very great portion of the goods for the foreign market, were for the United States of America (276).

---

(9) *Bolton in the Moors.*

Mr. JOHN WOOD, Cotton Manufacturer and Spinner of

Bolton-in-the-Moors.—The township of Bolton contains 28,000 persons, of whom 10,000 are engaged in the Cotton Trade. Great numbers of men have been turned off within the last 18 months; considerable numbers are kept on in the hope of a favourable change in the trade; but if such change does not happen, many more must be turned off speedily. The lower orders in Bolton in a most wretched state (223). Distress of 1800 and 1801 not equal to the present, as there was then plenty of work, and wages were double. Oatmeal and potatoes the principal food of the poor at Bolton, of which they have had a very short allowance of late. "Strangers who have been former "inhabitants of Bolton and have left the town, but who have "seen the lower orders within these few months, have expressed "their horror at the general distress of the town, the general "want of spirit in the manufacturers to employ the poor, and "the general state of distress of the poor." There has been one appearance of a riotous disposition; but so long as the wages of the workmen were pretty good, and their employment constant, they were very peaceable. From May 1807 to May 1808, 328 families were relieved, and the poor rates were 2935l. From 1811 to 1812, 565 families were relieved, and the poor rates upwards of 5000l. and this has not been efficient relief. An active good weaver used to get, in good times, 30s. a week, now 10s. to 12s. but most of them only 8s. to 10s. (224). There is a general stagnation in all business at Bolton, especially the Cotton Business, and a great difficulty in letting buildings and premises for manufactures. The workmen live chiefly in cottages, and the landlords have excessive difficulty in collecting the rents. The poor very much in want of clothing (225). Sells the twist which he manufactures to houses in Blackburn, who sell great quantities of goods to persons trading to America (226).

---

(10) *Kidderminster.*

Mr. HERBERT BROOM, Carpet Manufacturer at *Kidder-*

minster.—Four years ago employed 650 to 700 hands, now employs from 350 to 370, began to reduce the number in 1811, and has been reducing them ever since. A very considerable proportion of the manufacture has been for America (118). Has reduced the employment of the men he now retains, so that a man with a family, who formerly gained as much as 30s. a week, now gains 17s. 18s. or 20s. and a single man about one-half. Has a greater stock of goods than he ever had before, and the prices so reduced, that he sells to a considerable loss; and if the present state of things continues, he will not employ the reduced number of hands he has at present. Distress among the lower orders greater than it ever was before. The pawnbrokers have refused to continue their advances, because they have pledged to the full amount of their money in trade (119). The great distress in Kidderminster was felt after the stoppage of the American Trade, and has continued to increase; if that trade was opened, it would materially relieve the town. The home trade considerably less than it was. (121). Orders for America would be given him to-morrow, if that market was open (122), and in this case he should employ the number of men which he did two years ago (124).

Mr. RICHARD WATSON, Carpet Manufacturer, *Kidderminster.*—Used to employ 120 to 130 hands, and has now only 60 or 70, and these have not full employment. The home trade fallen off, and he has found it impossible to keep it up (112). In many instances a family does not get half its former earnings. The trade being overstocked, the manufacturers are selling for what price they can obtain, and at a loss. The poor rates advanced (113). The distress beyond conception. The pawnbrokers inform him they have expended their whole fund, and that none of the articles pledged are redeemed. The population of Kidderminster 8,038 persons. About 1,200 persons employed in the Carpet Trade, but 2,400 would be employed if the trade was in the state it was some years back (114). Carpets were exported to the United States of America (115). If he was convinced there would be no relief, would immediately turn off twenty more hands; as the loss in manufacturing the article is so

great, that he should not consider himself justified in making it at the present prices (116). Trade has generally been good when the American intercourse was free and open, and it has never been so bad as since February 1811 (117).

---

(11). *Leicester.*

Mr. THOMAS LEACH, Manufacturer of Hosiery at *Leicester.*—In a good state of trade the number of persons engaged in this manufacture in the town and county of Leicester, is about 20,000 or 21,000. In 1810, his own trade employed about 400 hands. Has been turning them off ever since the stoppage of the American Trade, and now employs rather more than 300 (177). Warehouses in general are stocked with goods, and the general belief of the master manufacturers is that they must turn off their men, unless the American trade is opened. The American Trade is five-sixths, or perhaps seven-eighths of the foreign trade of Leicester. The Home Trade does not yield half its former profit. Stock of goods 10,000l. A shipment to South America, made in consequence of the loss of the market of the United States, left a loss of more than 20 per cent. (178). Shipments to British America have not succeeded. Has orders to ship to America to the amount of 10,000l. which would take off his whole stock on hand, provided the Orders in Council were rescinded (179). Read a letter from his correspondents in America, directing him to ship goods when the Orders in Council are removed (181). The market of the United States a very improving one, the payments much improved, and very good latterly. The demand for the Continent of Europe inconsiderable (183).

Mr. WILLIAM DRAYTON, Stocking Manufacturer of Leicester. His trade about one-third for the American Market, and two-thirds for the Home Market. When the trade was good, employed 580 hands, now employs 400. The reduction

owing to the loss of the American Market. Stock very much accumulated in 1811 and 1812. A great number of orders on hand for America, to be shipped on the rescinding of the Orders in Council, or an accommodation between the governments. (184). Read letters to that effect. The home trade much depressed, and the profit considerably lowered (185). Has tried the market of South America, and received only 11s. 6d. in the pound. If the present interruption of the market of the United States continues, cannot employ his present hands. His stock of goods greater than it ever was in his remembrance, and that of his neighbours is increasing and absorbing their capital. If there was an open trade to America, the distresses of the manufacturers of Leicester and the neighbourhood would be removed (190).

---

(12) *Hinckley, Leicestershire.*

Mr. THOMAS SHORT, Manufacturer of Hosiery at *Hinckley, in Leicestershire.*—The total number of persons employed in this manufacture at Hinckley, and the adjoining villages, nearly 3,000, about one-third to one-fourth of the manufacture is for the American market, and the value about 30,000l. per annum (190). In good times employs upwards of 200 hands, now employs about two-thirds the number. In consequence of the loss of the American market, the Manufacturers generally state they must turn off one-half of their hands, if the demand is not greater than at present. Twelve to fourteen hundred persons now unemployed (191). The Home Trade is much injured by the competition of persons formerly in the Foreign Trade, and it now affords no profit (192).

---

(13) *Warwick.*

Mr. JOHN PARKES, Worsted Manufacturer, of *Warwick.*—About sixteen months ago employed 600 hands, now employs

500 (192). Accumulation of stock greater than at any former period, although the hours of work are reduced. Reduction of employment about one-third (193). Wages of married women, and widows with children, in a particular branch of the manufacture, reduced from 6s. 7s. and 8s. per week to two shillings. Attributes the whole loss of his trade entirely to the want of the American market. If the present stagnation of trade continues, must either discharge his workmen or find money till there is a trade opened; "but when pro-" visions are so dear, and we see our work-people, who have " been with us for so many years, and are faithful to us, want-" ing food, it is a very painful thing, indeed, to think of dis-" charging them" (195).

---

(14) *The Glass Trade.*

Mr. THOMAS HOLT, of *Liverpool*, Proprietor of Glass Works at Warrington (291) for the manufacture of Flint Glass and Window Glass.—Employs 130 hands, all either articled servants or apprentices. The market very considerably diminished since the end of 1810. About two-thirds of his manufacture was for the American market; the remainder for the West Indies and the British settlements in America. The trade to Canada has been an increasing trade, but not to a great extent since the American market fell off. The home trade has fallen off considerably within the last three or four months, which he ascribes to a great number of persons not being able to buy glass who formerly did (292). There are glass manufactories in America, and duties on the importation of foreign glass; but although these duties have existed for some years, the exportation of glass to the United States has been continually increasing. The Americans import glass from Holland considerably cheaper, but very inferior in quality to ours (293). There would be a difficulty in training glass-makers in America, as they generally serve from seven to nine years. Is under no apprehensions that if

the trade to America was again opened, and the duties the same as they were before the stoppage, but that his manufactures would go off as usual; because in the year 1810 the demand for America took off all the glass they could make (294).

---

(15) *Salt Works of Cheshire.*

Mr. WM. OKILL.—The American market takes off a great deal of salt when it is open. Supposes in the year 1810, it took 40,000 to 50,000 tons. A great many hands have been discharged in the trade, namely, boilers, pansmen, lightermen, and labourers of all descriptions. The stocks are very heavy, and the manufacturers are selling to a loss. The salt works consume upwards of 150,000 tons of coals annually. Unless there comes a fresh demand for salt, the coal proprietors must dismiss their men, because they have not a consumption, except in the salt trade. In 1810 there was a very great demand for salt, and some vessels from America went without cargoes in consequence of the greatness of the demand. There is an export of salt to the North of Europe under license, and if they had the American market in addition, they would be able to carry on business to a profit (479).

---

(16) *Linen Trade of Scotland.*

Mr. WALTER FERGUS—Extensively engaged in the Linen Trade of Scotland for upwards of thirty years. The manufacture is carried on to a considerable extent in Fifeshire, and the neighbouring districts of Scotland. It began to decline in the year 1808, and declined periodically till 1809. It revived again in 1810, and since that time has failed very much indeed (475). Has never known the trade so low as at present. There are some people, not many, thrown out of employment. The government contract for a species of linen like Russia duck, serves to em-

ploy a part of them. Some of the workmen are engaged at diminished work and lower wages. The stock on hand has accumulated very considerably. From the best of his knowledge, one half of the manufacture goes to the United States, but this is now entirely stopped. In good times employed 500 weavers, but since the year 1809, has been obliged to turn off 360 of them. In the different districts of Scotland, the distress is considerable, arising from diminished manufacture and low wages. (476).

---

(17) *Spital Fields.*

Mr. JOHN HONYMAN, Churchwarden of the Parish of *Spital Fields.*—The Looms employed in the manufacture of Spital Fields, about 17,000 to 20,000, and about 5,000 of them are in the parish of Spital Fields, where at least one-half of the weavers are out of employment, and the lower orders in a most deplorable state (299). More than one instance has occurred, where they have died literally for want. Soup distributed, is about 3,000 to 4,000 quarts a day. Has dismissed a considerable number of his hands, who were employed in the Silk Trade. The light Silks of Spital Fields sell in America; of other sorts, the French are cheaper than ours (301). If the American Trade was open, there would be an opportunity of sending a considerable quantity of goods there; has in the course of some years, manufactured goods for the American market, principally of the slight quality. Within these two years there has been no trade to America, and therefore he was obliged to turn off his hands employed for that particular trade; if the trade was opened again, has no hesitation in saying those very articles would find sale there; and he would take back the hands he has dismissed, which he believes is the case with others in the same line as himself (301). In October last, he purchased Potatoes for the Workhouse at 3l. 10s. per ton; within the last six weeks, they have been selling in Spital Fields Market at 12l. 13l. and 14l. a ton, (302). Persons who have died for want, have

applied for, and obtained relief, but they were too far gone before they made application; has uniformly found that the industrious poor will never apply for relief till the very last extremity (303.) Believes that more than a fifth of the Silk manufactured in Spital Fields went to America, and that more than one-third of his own manufacture, for seven years, was for the American market (304.) The want of an adequate supply of raw Silk, has been one great cause of the want of employ, and consequent distress of the manufacturers (305).

Mr. WILLIAM HALE, in the Silk Trade, and Treasurer of the Parish of *Spital Fields*.—Confirmed the preceding evidence of the great distress experienced by the Weavers, and other labouring classes residing in Spital Fields (309).

Mr. GEORGE STEVENSON, in the Silk Trade of *Spital Fields*.—Formerly employed about 150 to 200 Weavers in London, which are now reduced about one-half; and about 120 at Reading, now reduced to 90 or 100. Manufactured to the extent of about 50,000l. in a year, of which 6,000l. to 8,000l. was for America (316); and these goods employed a greater number of hands in proportion to the value, than other articles. Trade in general has fallen off. If the trade to America was open it would be a relief, as he is informed by Merchants they have orders, if they could ship (319).

---

(18). *Cloth Manufacture of the West of England.*

Mr. SAMUEL WOODS, of *London*.—Engaged in the sale of the Cloths of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Somersetshire. The amount of these goods annually sent from London to the United States of America was 500,000l. to 700,000l. Until the Orders in Council were laid, the demand for America was regularly increasing, and it had become a very good market, and the pay good (477). Has orders for America to the amount of 15,000l. to 20,000l. to be shipped on the Orders in Council being rescinded (478).

COMMERCE.

Liverpool.

Mr. JOSEPH BROOKS YATES, Merchant, *Liverpool.*—Engaged almost altogether in the Jamaica trade. Is secretary of a charity formed to relieve the poor during the present high price of provisions; a temporary society. The number of poor has greatly increased during the last winter over what they were in the winter of 1808 and 1809. In visiting them last winter, found them in very great distress indeed; and those persons who appeared to be suffering were not only casual persons of the very lowest description, but great numbers of them were regular, skilful, able bodied mechanics. In the book which he took round with him, in visiting his division of the town in November last, there were 47 cases, of which 30 were in distress from want of work. A larger division stood as follows; out of 170 families, 103 were in distress from want of employment (375). In nine weeks, in the winter of 1812, there was expended 2,393l. 4s. which was distributed to 15,98[illegible]sons (376). Never recollects an equal number of persons out [illegible]mployment. There has been some increase of employment during the last three weeks; understands from 40 to 50 ships have unexpectedly arrived from America (377). The cause of their coming was, no doubt, the apprehension in America of an embargo. Considers this arrival as merely temporary. The rent of warehouses in Liverpool, in his estimation, decreased from one-third to one-half; the rent of dwelling houses very considerably, but not to the same degree. There has been a great glut of coffee, sugar, and other West India articles which are usually exported. The price of coffee has progressively lowered for the last four years. Is himself a considerable importer of coffee; is compelled to receive it, for unfortunately he has advanced money on the mortgage of coffee estates. Has declined extending his business in that line, and has refused to advance money on coffee, because it was not worth freight and charges (378). Has no doubt that if the prices of coffee do not mend, all the coffee planters in the British West Indies must be completely ruined.

Very great quantities of foreign West India coffee have come into this country. The trade of Liverpool has been unprecedentedly distressed during the last eighteen months; Never knew so many failures in the same space of time, nor so many capitalists decline business, or fall off in their capital (379).

Actual Condition of Trade in Liverpool, in May 1812. (380)

Eleven Principal Trades.	*Supposed Number of Journeymen in Liverpool.*	*Number now employed.*	*Supposed Number of Apprentices.*	REMARKS.
18 Shipwrights - - - - - -	550	350	300	List of Ships now building—Five on Contract, and six on Speculation. No Orders.
21 or 22 Sailmakers - - - -	86	25	100	
Ropers - - - - - - -	85	55	145	
25 Block-makers - - - - -	50	25	76	
Painters - - - - - - -	150	110	60	
Coopers - - - - - - -	250	125	130	
80 Joiners - - - - - - -	750	500	200	About 100 gone to Sea for want of Work.
Riggers - - - - - - -	200	80	None	
Masons - - - - - - - -	340	220	Unknown	
Iron Founders - - - - -	230	100	Unknown	
Copper and Brass Manufacturers	60	25	Unknown	
Total in Liverpool - - - -	2,751	1,615		
Total employed - - - - -	1,615			
Journeymen unemployed - -	1,136 in 11 Trades.			

Eight principal Master Porters.	*Constant Men.* 1810.	1811.	1812.	
James Green and Co. - - -	45	25	15	
John Haselden and Co. - -	84	40	25	
Richard Gough and Co. - -	97	50	13	
Edward Appleton - - - -	36	20	12	
Roberts - - - - - - - -	12	8	6	
Atkinson - - - - - - -	20	10	3	
Mariner - - - - - - - -	20	12	7	
Ashton - - - - - - - -	20	12	4	
	334	177	85	(381)

Considerable quantities of lumber and provisions supplied by America to the West India Islands; the lumber quite essential, and the supply of American staves indispensable (382). Presumes the immediate cause of our exclusion from the Continent is the French decrees (383). The failures in Liverpool have been principally occasioned by the non-intercourse with the United States of America. Several attributable to unfortunate speculations to South America (384). Does not suppose the comparatively small increase of the poor rates by any means a fair criterion by which to judge of the distress in the town, because the number of strangers in it (not entitled to parish relief) is great beyond that of any other place by far (389). The rates of West India freight lower than they were twelve or fourteen years ago, although the expenses of fitting out ships are very materially increased (393). The ship owners of Liverpool are making no money at all. Is a considerable ship owner himself (394). The saleable value of ships at Liverpool reduced as much as 20 per cent. lower than it was two years ago. (398).

Mr. THOMAS HOLT.—" In October last, I was desired by " the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor at Liver- " pool, to inspect a district of that town; I inspected 140 cel- " lars and back houses containing 87 married persons, whose " families consisted of 443 persons; 39 of this number were in " full work, and earned upon the average 15s. 8d. per week per

" family ; 78 more of them were partly employed, and their " average earnings were 4s. 6d½. ; 23 more were totally un- " employed ; of the 120 which were entered in my book, 71 " families were relieved on the first distribution by the Society ; " 13 of those families, consisting of 68 persons, received 2s. per " week; 16 more of them, consisting of 67 persons, received 1s. 6d. " per week ; and 42 more, consisting of 119 persons, received " 1s. per week. At a subsequent period, 15 more of those en- " tered into my book were relieved, and 30 more who were " not entered into the book, but applied personally afterwards, " were relieved." Some of the persons who were out of employment were not in health and capable of working, but the greater part of them were in full health and generally laborious (292).

Mr. JOHN RICHARDSON, American Commission Merchant of *Liverpool*.—Five years ago employed 11 clerks; one would do the whole business he has had for the last twelve months. Has had nine ships under his care at one time. Now has not one ; but is satisfied, that if the Orders in Council were repealed, he should have a great many. Has a greater stock of goods for shipment lying in his warehouse than he ever had before (425). The Company of Carters in Liverpool, in 1806, received for 120 carts 19,556l. 12s. 6d. ; in 1807, 18,221. 13s. 5d. 1808, 15,7221. 0s. 11d. ; in 1809, for 140 Carts, 25,855l. 11s. in 1810, for 140 Carts, 29,719l. 17s. 8d. ; in 1811, not more than 20,000l. From the 1 January to 1 May of the present year, by 140 Carts, did not exceed 4,000l. In 1811 made two shipments to British America, amounting to 50,000l. ; and by the last accounts the greatest part of the goods intended for the United States, was still in New Brunswick. A cargo of 60,000l. shipped to Amelia Island, not a package of which has yet been unladen from the ship. From a conversation with two of the most respectable houses in Liverpool, believes that goods to the value of a million sterling are lying there ready to be shipped on the removal of the Orders in Council (426). Has lived in Liverpool 11 years, and thinks the trade and the situation of the merchants were never so bad as at present. Many

of the poorer orders out of employment. In entering free goods at the Custom House for exportation, the insertion is merely nominal ; there is no value attached to it, and the number of pieces is merely nominal or put at random. Trade has fallen off, particularly since February 1811. Immediately after Mr. Erskine's arrangement it was very good in Liverpool. Attributes the distress in Liverpool principally to the want of American Trade (427).

Mr. WILLIAM RATHBONE, Merchant of *Liverpool*, son of the late Mr. Rathbone who was examined four years ago. Has on hand upwards of 2,000 packages of goods ready for the American Market (428), the value at a moderate computation, 200,000l. ; and they would be shipped, provided the Orders in Council of 1809 and 1807 were repealed (434).

Mr. WILLIAM ALEXANDER BROWN, Merchant of *Liverpool*.—Has on hand about 600 packages of Hardware, Calicoes, Muslins, and a variety of other articles destined for Baltimore and some for Philadelphia, of the value of about 100,000l. which would be shipped as soon as the Orders in Council are repealed (295). Read letters from his correspondents in America respecting the shipment of goods in the event of the Orders in Council being repealed (294).

Mr. THOMAS THORNELY, Merchant of *Liverpool*, trading chiefly to the United States of America, partner of Mr. Martin, who was examined four years ago upon the subject of the Orders in Council. Was in America from 1805 to July 1810 (344). The merchants of Liverpool are very much without employment, and the labouring poor very much distressed ; the distress never so great in his remembrance. Sixteen thousand persons were, in one week, relieved from a fund raised by voluntary contributions, independently of parochial relief. The number of American ships cleared out at Liverpool, was 336 from the 1st June to 31st December 1809 ; 53 from 1st January to 30 June 1810; 349 from 17 July to 31st December 1810; 196 from 1st January to 30th June 1811; 90 from 1st July to

31st December 1811; and 54 from 1st January to 25th April 1812. These ships formerly carried back to America very valuable articles, and lately only sand and paving stones. Several cargoes were shipped from Liverpool to Amelia Island last year, in the hope of the Non-Importation Act being taken off, and of those cargoes being immediately admitted. Read a letter from the owner of an American ship which loaded at Liverpool, with goods for Amelia Island (See Appendix). Shipped goods to Canada last year, because the prohibition had taken place in America, and it was expected the goods arriving in Canada would be the first in the market if the prohibition was taken off (Read a letter from Montreal, for which see Appendix). In ordinary times, the exchange of America upon England did not fluctuate more than from 3 to 5 per cent. above or below par. During the embargo, bills on England sold at 10 per cent. premium; the exchange has been sinking during the whole of last year; on account of the prohibition to import goods from this country, it has been reduced to 17, 20 and even 25 per cent. (346). When he was in America, manufactures were in their infancy, but he has letters from America stating that they have much increased since that time, (See two letters in the Appendix). There are several persons in America worth half a million sterling, and many of smaller capitals. There is no want of specie in America, and he went to the Bank, where they gave him what guineas he wanted; and he has seen passengers arriving from America with 50 or 100 guineas (347). If there were no restrictions in the way, flour and other provisions might be drawn from America; has been in several parts where wheat might be purchased at half a dollar, or 2s. 3d. a bushel (349), and the Mississippi is a new source from whence flour might be procured. Believes that if the intercourse with America was opened, the influx of goods now on hand for the American Market, would essentially injure the rising manufactures of America; and is firmly of opinion that, with the increasing wealth of America, the exports of this country would continue to increase. Was in New York when the news arrived of the British Orders in Council of November 1807. "I received the "Globe Newspaper of the 10th of November 1807, stating that

" a proclamation was then waiting for His Majesty's signature, " declaring the ports of France and Holland in a state of block- " ade, and that no vessels would be permitted to go there without " clearances from a British port; the same information came " from a variety of quarters at the same time; these we re- " ceived on the 12th December 1807" (350). It was copied into the American papers immediately. The post is two days and a half between New York and Washington, and the embargo was laid on the 22d of December 1807 (351). " I will beg leave to " state a conversation I had with a Member of Congress some " time afterwards. I asked this Member of Congress, if it was " a fair question, whether the Government in America had " been aware of the Orders in Council at the time they laid the " embargo, because I saw it stated in some papers that they " were not; he said, it was a singular fact that they received at " Washington, on the same day, an account of the first con- " demnation in France under the Berlin decree, and of the " Orders in Council; and he said, We then laid the embargo; " in fact, we can scarcely be said to have laid the embargo, " it was the belligerents who destroyed our commerce (359)." Knows no persons in Liverpool who are dealers in false papers, but had a circular letter of the 11th May 1811 sent to his house (See Appendix). When Cotton or Linen Goods, which are duty free, are entered at the Custom House for exportation, no value is stated, and a man may enter 5 pieces in a package or 5,000 (352). The number of industrious people out of work at Liverpool very great indeed; saw riggers who assured him they had had no work for a month (353). " If the British Govern- " ment pays for the provisions sent to Spain and Portugal they " are drawn upon for 22½ per cent. more than they would be " if the exchange was at par; if the importation of goods in " America was permitted, that 22½ per cent. would be saved, " and we should have the advantage of exporting British manu- " factures. The manufactures exported to America have been " increasing in fineness and in value, I believe, every year, and " will go on increasing with the prosperity of America (361)."

Mr. JOHN RICHMOND JAFFRAY, Merchant of *London*, engaged in the American Trade. Was in Canada in September, October, and November last. In that market, and in New Brunswick, there was a great glut of British Goods, and they were selling, in general, at a loss of from 10 to 40 or 50 per cent. below prime cost and charges. Has exported nothing since the Non-Importation Law of the United States went into operation; but upon the repeal of the Orders in Council (337), would make a very large shipment. Has pretty large orders conditioned upon that event (338). In America, a great many manufactories are now attempted to be established, and they are making a little progress: If the Non-Importation Law lasts a very long time, they will no doubt make progress; but they have not produced any important rivalship to the manufactures of Great Britain at present. Of the French manufactured goods, particularly Silk Goods, there are a great many more than the country wants, and they are as cheap as they have ever been; they cannot be sold at all to the advantage of those who imported them, a larger quantity having been imported, than the country required. The manufactures from France were confined entirely to Silks and Cambrics, with a very few Laces, but those were inconsiderable (340). During the time when an open trade existed, the Linens of Great Britain were sent to America, and sold to advantage. Up to the last period of open trade, the Linens of Great Britain were not undersold in the American market (341). Supposing that German Linens can now be exported from the Elbe to the United States of America, they have every advantage which they could have if the Orders in Council were repealed (342).

Mr. HENRY HINCKLEY, Insurance Broker of *London*.—In case the Orders in Council were repealed, and no other event was to take place, could now effect insurance at Lloyds on goods from England to America, against capture and sea risk, and also against seizure in the American port of destination, for the premium of FOUR GUINEAS PER CENT. (343).

Mr. JOHN FRY, has been for many years managing clerk

of the House of Mackenzie, Glennie, and Co. *of London.* Mr. Glennie was examined before the House, four years ago, and is at present unwell. Before the year 1808, received very large remittances from the Continent of Europe, for the proceeds of American shipments (463), at least a million per annum. This money was repaid by the Americans drawing bills and selling them to the agents of British manufacturers in America; or by paying the manufacturers in this country, by orders from various correspondents in America. No remittances have been received from the Continent for the last two years, except from Spain and Portugal, whence they are in the habit of receiving very large sums, arising from the sales of Flour, Grain, and Salt Provisions. Mr. Gallatin's report to Congress, stated the Export of Provisions to different parts of the world, to have amounted to 20 millions of dollars within the last year; and as some of the seller's prices, have perhaps produced a hundred per cent. profit, he supposes, judging from what passed through their hands, that the sales in Lisbon, Oporto, Cadiz, and Gibralter, must have amounted to 7 or 8 millions sterling. A mail just arrived from Lisbon, brings accounts that Flour, which prior to any idea of an Embargo, and for some few months back, used to sell for about 12 to 12½ millreas a barrel, had got up to 15 and 15½;—the moment the Embargo was known it went up instantly to 16, 17, and to 20; and the last accounts bring the account of 22 millreas a barrel (464). The Millrea is 70 pence, but government is now paying 71. The exchange between America and this country is rather better than 29 per cent. If the Orders in Council were revoked, the goods which are lying ready for America, would instantly be shipped, "To-morrow morning we should get ships, and send them "off immediately. The only time I should wait is our "clerk going to the Custom-House and entering the goods." The former duty on Cotton imported into France was 33 francs on 50 Killegrams, it is now on long staple 400 francs, and on short staple 300 francs, that is, 3s. 6d. per pound on the long staple, and 2s. 6d. on the short. These duties were imposed in 1810. The duty on Coffee used to be 82½ francs the hundred weight, it is now 200 francs, or £11. sterling, but at the present exchange £12. 2s. The duty on sugars used to be 30

francs per hundred weight on muscovado; and is now raised to 150; and on clayed it was 55 francs, and is now 200 (465). In entering for exportation Cotton and Linen Goods, which are free of duty at the Custom-House, they never think of giving the real value, but take care to enter enough, it is just as easy to write £100,000. as ten (466). Has seen an entry made, British Cottons £5,000, when that Package, perhaps, cost £50 (468). The last exchange from America was 22 per cent., they deduct the exchange from the £100., therefore in fact it is 29 upon £100. The circumstance of the loss of exchange has been from the Trade being all one way; the Trade has been from America to this side, without any means of making returns, and they have no means but drawing these Bills, and they are forced to sell them for what they can get (467). American ships used generally to return from Holland in ballast; there were a few goods laid on the top of the ballast, but nothing in the shape of cargoes. The present low rate of exchange is an essential loss to this country, because that which cost 6 millions of dollars, would not cost 6 were it not for the exchange; a barrel of Flour if invoiced at 10 dollars, is in fact 12 or 12½ (469). Never heard of persons in France drawing upon this country in payment of shipments which they were making to America; or of shipments going from France to America, of such consequence as to require drafts. All the foreign grain that arrives in this country goes to the Peninsula, "there were "6,000 quarters of corn came into the market this morning, they "were all bought to go to Lisbon; there is a good deal come "from Archangel, and they must all go to Lisbon, I presume, "for their prices are so high they will give a very handsome "profit upon it." The corn arriving from the Baltic in this country is shipped to the peninsula, in consequence of the high prices payable there since the American Embargo; if the price had remained as it was, it would not have gone from this country. The remittances from the Peninsula for Flour sent from America, are principally bills on the Treasury at 30 days; so that if the price has advanced 50 per cent. it is so much additional expense to the government of this country, for all they buy. The provisions from America to the Peninsula, amount

to seven millions or more, the Commissary General buys the chief, but part is bought by other individuals, who go to the Commissary, and he gives his Bills for it. These supplies are now increased in cost to the amount of 50 per cent. in consequence of the interruption to the American intercourse. In consequence of the depreciation of the exchange, arising from the want of shipments of manufactures of this country to America, and attributable solely to the Orders in Council, this government loses $22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in every £100. that it lays out in America for shipments to the Peninsula, which it would not lose if the Orders in Council were off, and the Exchange at Par. This must have made a total loss to this country of TWO MILLIONS (474).

MANUFACTURES

OF AMERICA,

In addition to the Evidence upon that subject, to be found in the preceding pages.

Mr. JAMES RONALDSON, Merchant, has resided in America about eighteen years, and has been engaged in manufactures, trade, and farming. Since Commerce has been embarrassed the manufactures have been increasing; in the ratio of the troubles of commerce, the manufactures have been advancing. The Cotton Manufacture has increased; before 1807, it was a languishing business, but since that time it has become a brisk and thriving trade. Came before the House with reluctance, and not till the Warrant of the House had been served upon him, because being embarked in manufactures in America, as the present investigation might produce an effect upon them, he did not like to interfere. The present order of things is just making them, and a change might perhaps ruin them (451). There is an importation of French manufactures, but does not think it is considerable; very little of their articles is capable of supplying the consumption of America. Has been engaged in the growth of Wool in America, and is capable of saying, from his own observation, that it has been attended with great success. Coals are to be found in abundance in the United States on the western waters, there are several mines in the Eastern States; and at Richmond and Wilkesbarre. He is engaged in the manufacture of types and of earthenware. He does not know that his pottery interferes with the British; it sells in the present state of things; the British rather interferes with it (452). The cotton manufacture has principally become considerable within the last six years. There has been no increase of duties on British manufactures in America to protect her own manufactures. Some goods have been bought in France

for the American market, because they could not be got from England in the present state of things. He thinks the wool of the Merino Sheep maintains its quality, and in some instances it has been stated to improve, but the experiment is so young, that that fact is not yet ascertained (453). Has seen superfine cloths made from the Merino Wool in America, and people who professed to be judges, said it was good in the material, but not very well manufactured (454).

Mr. THOMAS KINDER, Merchant of *London*—Was in the United States from the year 1804, to the end of 1809. The progress of manufactures in America has been great since 1807. At the end of the year 1807 there were fifteen Cotton Mills in the United States, and at the end of 1809 there were eighty-seven. Since the year 1807, there have been many manufactures introduced, white and red lead; and the manufacture of Glass has been much extended. In Pittsburg there is a manufactory of Flint Glass, which has a ten pot furnace. It was undertaken by merchants, who were till then in the habit of selling British manufactures in New York, but being put out of employment in consequence of the Orders in Council destroying the intercourse, they sought some other occupation, and established this manufactory at Pittsburg; it is now very successfully carried on, and they have it in contemplation to build another furnace, and to double their capital (446). Produced a specimen of the glass. Coals cost there about 2d. per bushel, or 6s. 6d. per chaldron. The mines extend for many miles up the Ohio, and the Alleghany, and Monongahela. Large foundries are established in the United States, there are three at Pittsburg, two of which have been established since the year 1809. A steamboat of 400 tons has been built since that period, to navigate the Ohio and Mississippi. Great numbers of Merino Sheep have been imported from the peninsula, and large quantities of wool are now produced. Prices of land have risen very much in Pittsburg; in the summer of 1809, a lot of half an acre was sold for 1,000 dollars, and in 1810, the same lot was sold again for 2,000 dollars, which he attributes to the improvement of the town, and in particular to its being considered a favourable

situation for manufactures (447). The Banks in America discount at 6 per cent. The legal interest in the State of New York is 7 per cent. There are a great number of men of Capital now in the United States; believes there is no want of manufacturing Capital, and the Banks are very free, accommodating those who wish to establish manufactories in the United States. The common Currency of America is Paper, but you may always call for specie at the banks. English Guineas are to be had occasionally at the Banks if applied for. The wool raised in America is capable of making as fine cloth as is worn (448). A manufactory of Pins has very lately been established at New York, the wire for that manufacture is now imported from France, because it could not be imported from England. Produced some of the Pins. The capital employed in it is ten to twelve thousand dollars (451).

Mr. CAMPBELL PATRICK WHITE, Merchant, has resided at Baltimore for thirteen years. The Cotton manufacture in America has increased, more particularly, since the year 1809. A very large manufactory was established in the year 1808, within nine miles of Baltimore, with a capital of £112,500. sterling; it employed in the year 1811, about one hundred and fifty persons. Another considerable Cotton Mill, was established about the same time at the Passaic Falls. Cotton twist has been exported to Petersburg and Archangel, since 1808. Consumption of French manufactures in America is not considerable. French silks in America are much cheaper than they were six or eight months ago, and the price of brandy has fallen within the last four months at least 20 per cent. (441). Is informed that the French silks will not interfere with those from Great Britain, French silks being of a high price, and the silks generally used in America being of a low price. The Cotton twist Manufacture in America has been profitable (442). In the year 1811, the whole value of American produce exported was in dollars, 45,295,043, viz. to Great Britain 20,308,211 dollars. To Spain and Portugal, 18,266,466 dollars. To France, and Italy, 1,194,275 dollars. The produce shipped to Spain and Portugal, amounting to four millions and a half sterling, was

chiefly Flour, and Indian corn (443). A good deal of German linens have been imported into the United States, but in the year 1806, which was a year of the greatest import, the manufactures of France and Holland, paying duties ad valorem, did not amount to more than £900,000. sterling. In the same year there were imported from England, Scotland, and Ireland, of manufactures paying duties ad valorem, 35,569,744 dollars (444). This amount is exclusive of those articles imported from Great Britain, which pay specific duties, and those which are free (445). The re-export of British manufactures in former times, did not amount to more than one thirteenth part of the Imports (442).

APPENDIX.

(1) EXTRACT *from the present* NON-IMPORTATION ACT *of the United States.*

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That in case Great Britain shall so revoke or modify her edicts, as that they shall cease to violate the Neutral Commerce of the United States, the President of the United States shall declare the fact by proclamation; and such proclamation shall be admitted as evidence, and no other evidence shall be admitted of such revocation, or modification, in any suit, or prosecution, which may be instituted under the fourth Section of the Act to which this is a Supplement. And the Restrictions imposed, or which may be imposed by virtue of the said Act, shall, from the date of such Proclamation, cease and be discontinued.

Extract from a Letter from Mr. Munroe, the American Secretary of State to His Majesty's Minister, Mr. Foster, dated Washington, 26th July, 1811.

It is in the power of the British Government at this time, to enable the President to set the Non-Importation Law aside, by rendering to the United States an Act of Justice. If Great Britain will cease to violate their Neutral Rights by revoking her Orders in Council, on which event alone the President has the power, I am instructed to inform you that he will, without delay, exercise it by terminating the operation of this law.

(2) *Dates of the Orders in Council, the French Decrees, and the consequent Acts of the American Government.*

1806	May 16th.	British Blockade from the Elbe to Brest.
	Nov. 21st.	Berlin Decree.
1807	Jan. 7th.	British Order in Council, prohibiting Coasting Trade.
	Nov. 11th.	The celebrated British Orders in Council.
	Dec. 7th.	Milan Decree.
	Dec. 22nd.	American Embargo.
1809	March 4th.	Embargo removed, and Non-Intercourse substituted.
	April 19th.	Mr. Erskine's Negotiation, which opened the Trade with England.
	April 26th.	An Order in Council, modifying the Orders of November 1807.
	Aug. 10th.	Non-Intercourse with Great Britain.
1810	May 1st.	Act of Congress, opening the Trade.
	Nov. 2nd.	President's Proclamation, declaring the French Decrees to be rescinded.
1811	Feb. 2nd.	American Non-Importation Act.
1812	April 4th.	American Embargo.

(3.) *Letters from America, regarding the Shipment of Goods, in case the Orders in Council are removed.*

" New York, December 10th, 1810.

" Messrs. Naylor and Sanderson,

" Gentlemen,

. . . . . .

" We now hand you a small addition to our order, which we wish prepared as soon as possible, and if in time, to come with those already ordered. We are daily in hopes of our Congress doing something to allow merchants to get their goods now ordered; it is probable they will fix some time beyond which goods shall not be shipped from England to this, unless the Orders in Council are repealed: we, therefore, wish those already ordered, and also the present addition, ready as soon as possible, so that advantage can be taken of any opening that may occur. Under present circumstances, we would not wish the goods shipped, unless your Government repeal their Orders. If any thing is done on this side, you will be immediately informed of it.

We are your obedient servants,

S. & J. LAMBERT."

" New York, December 1st, 1810.

" Messrs. Naylor and Sanderson,

" Gentlemen,

" Since our respects of the 26th ult. certain circumstances have transpired, which induce us to give directions respecting our orders of September 15th and October 10th last; as follows

—That the goods be prepared with all possible dispatch at all events, and sent down to Liverpool. If your Government shall have repealed her Decrees or Orders in Council, usually known by the name of the Paper Blockades, or retaliating Decrees against France, then to have our goods shipped by the first vessel, otherwise to wait our further advice. It is expected that a memorial will be presented to Congress, praying, that in case England should refuse to rescind her Decrees, that then goods already ordered may be admitted to an entry here; so that we hope, in any event, to order the shipment of our goods. If this Petition should be granted, we shall give you the earliest notice of it.

We remain your obedient servants,

ROGERS & WINTHROP."

---

(147) "New York, 3rd December, 1810.

"Messrs. Naylor and Sanderson,

"Dear Sirs,

"My last was 17th October. Two questions have been proposed to Mr. Gallatin, the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States; and by his answers to them, I find that all British goods arriving into the United States, after the 2nd day of February next ensuing the date hereof, will be seized and forfeited to the United States; but if the British Decrees are removed, you will please to ship them without loss of time; but if the British Decrees are not removed, you will please to let them lay until you hear further from me. You will please to understand, that I wish you to have the goods all packed, and ready to be shipped at a moment's warning.

. . . . . .

With much respect, I am, dear Sirs,

Your most humble servant,

JOHN MOWATT, JUN."

"Boston, December 21st, 1810.

"Messrs. Naylor and Sanderson,

"Gentlemen,

. . . . . .

"We have now to request you to countermand all our goods ordered since November 2nd, 1810, unless the Orders in Council are repealed. Our goods were ordered without any intention of evading the Non-importation Law, and full expectation of the goods being shipped. . . . . .

. . . . . .

We remain, very respectfully, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servants,

HOMES & HOMER."

"Messrs. Harris, Leach, & Co. (181)

"Gentlemen, Boston, Nov. 16th, 1811.

"We have been duly favoured with yours of 20th May and

9th July, the latter informing that a part of our goods were nearly ready, and we wish we could say that the two Governments appeared nearly ready to suffer them to be shipped, but at present there appears no probability; but if we can judge from the correspondence just published between Mr. Foster and our Secretary, we shall have no opening until the Orders in Council are removed, in which case we request you to ship our goods without any further instructions. Hoping the differences between the two Governments will soon be amicably adjusted,

" We remain, &c."

Browns and Drayton, esteemed Friends. (185)

" Baltimore, 30th November 1811.

" Should your Orders in Council be rescinded time enough to enable you to ship spring goods, you will please send the same assortment as ordered of you for last spring; should they however not be removed before the shipping season for next fall, you will be pleased to send me the same assortment as ordered for spring and fall, under full insurance, by one of the first vessels sailing from Liverpool with fall goods under full insurance. In the mean time I rest your friend."

" Philadelphia, 12 Month, 26, 1810.

" Respected Friends,

" On the 27th of 10 Month, we ordered sundries from you for spring; and on the 6th inst. we wrote, requesting you would not send them unless the Orders in Council were so far repealed as to remove the obstructions occasioned by the President's Proclamation.

" We now hand you an order for sundries, which please forward to Hobsons and Bolton of Liverpool, in time for some of the early fall vessels, provided affairs are so far settled between our respective Governments as to make it safe for us and you. You will please to leave the insurance subject to our directions to them."

Addressed, Brown & Drayton,
Merchants, Leicester, England.

---

(294) " Baltimore, 15th December 1810.

" Messrs. Wm. Brown & Co.

" Gentlemen,

. . . . . .

" The Non-Intercourse will be in operation on the 2d February, provided the Orders in Council, &c. are not removed; on which account you will not forward our goods, if they do not arrive in time to have them forwarded prior to 1st February 1811.

. . . . . .

" We are your most obedient servants."

. . . . . .

" Baltimore, 31st December 1810.

" Messrs. Wm. Brown & Co.

" Gentlemen,

. . . . . .

" The present situation of affairs between the two countries, renders the importation of goods so precarious, that no permanent arrangement can be made of a satisfactory nature. We ordered several goods for the spring, and have countermanded them, unless the Orders in Council are removed.

. . . . . .

" Your friends and servants,"

. . . . . .

" Baltimore, January 1, 1812.

" Messrs. Wm. Brown & Co.

. . . . . .

" At present, it is the opinion of many here, that the Orders in Council will be repealed in time for spring goods: we hope it may be the case. Our opinion is, the present Session of Congress will leave our affairs, as it respects England, in nearly the same state at its close as at its commencement.

. . . . . .

" We are your most obedient servants,"

. . . . . .

---

(4) *Letter from the owner of an American Ship which loaded at Liverpool for Amelia Island.*

" Messrs. Hobsons and Bolton, Liverpool. (345)

" New York, February 1st, 1812.

" Dear Sirs,

. . . . . .

" The Captain is placed in the most disagreeable and embarrassing situation imaginable, at Amelia Island; the Governor there refusing him permission to remain unless he enters the cargo, the duties on which are about 33⅓ per cent. Again I am requested by . . . . . and others, to do an illegal act, and to order the . . . . . to the Delaware, which I of course decline, unless I am completely indemnified from all possible loss, which perhaps is impossible. I shall proceed under the best legal advice I can get. I am mortified to the soul that the ship ever took in the cargo; and if you could have foreseen all this trouble, I think, for three times the amount of the freight, you would not have given it me. I wish the thing was at an end, and the consignees in lawful possession of the goods in Philadelphia. . . . . .

" Your very obedient servant,

. . . . . .

(5) *Letter from Canada.* (346)

" Thomas Martin, Esq. Liverpool.

" Dear Sir, Montreal, 7th Dec. 1811.

. . . . . .

" Every thing here, as may be well supposed from the non-admission of manufactures to the States, and the low price of produce with you, is as bad as possible. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

" Dry goods of all descriptions have been selling to a large amount, at 20 per cent. and upwards less than their cost in England; but in the event of an opening to the States, the profits would be great. Ship-building has been carried on extensively, by which there will be much money lost. If an opening to the States does not soon take place, I am afraid further failures will occur. Not more than two-thirds of the number of ships of last year have loaded from this country; and for the next, except in case of a radical change, we cannot expect so many as this. . . . . .

" Your's, &c.

. . . . . .

(6) Letters *on the subject of the* Manufactures of America.

" New York, November 30th, 1811. (347)

" Dear Sir,

. . . . . .

" Our country is in an infinitely better state than is generally supposed; ship owners and importing merchants feel the present state of things, but the agriculturers of the Middle States, where grain is the staple commodity, were never more prosperous; the prices of certain articles (woollens) of British manufacture are high, and with difficulty can be procured. This has turned the attention of farmers to the raising or breeding of sheep, and others to the manufacture of cloth. I do not think we shall ever enter into competition with you *in foreign markets.* But this, I believe, that the habits of a part of our community may be brought to manufacture, to an extent nearly equal to our wants, of articles which we deem essential, as well of woollen as cotton; thus far manufactures with us are to be wished for, but in my opinion, not further. There is a wonderful change in this respect since you left us; streams of water, of sufficient force to work mills are sought after, and purchased with avidity at great prices. Men deemed prudent, possessing capitals, have embarked, and it is expected Government will protect them in their enterprises. Previous to our Non-importation Act taking effect, the state of specie in the country was alarmingly low; the Act has caused vast sums to be brought into the country, and I question whether our banks ever contained a greater amount."

. . . . . .

Yours sincerely,

. . . . . .

The following from Englishmen resident in America. (348)

" New York, December 12th, 1811.

" Messrs. Hobsons and Bolton, Liverpool,

" Dear Sirs,

. . . . . .

" It is with regret I observe there is no improvement in your cotton market, which too strongly shews the depressed state of the trade in England. I cannot but approve of the determination evinced of petitioning Parliament, on its meeting, respecting the destructive and ruinous measures of the Orders in Council, which are sapping the foundation of England. I will yield to no one as a well-wisher to his native country; and it has seldom happened but I have ranged myself on the ministerial side of the question; but from the first issuing of these ——— Orders, I have uniformly declared, that a perseverance in the system for five years, would not leave either a silver tea-pot or spoon in the land. If the export trade to this country was worth preserving to Great Britain, how awfully and woefully has the game been played. I believe I might say five years ago, nay perhaps four, that in America there were not four cotton factories. Look at our situation now, and cast your eye on the enclosed list I hand you in this, of the cotton factories in the neighbourhood of Providence, Rhode Island alone. This account appeared yesterday in our papers. Going on the wharf this morning, I was struck with a sight that might give a pang to the heart of your Liverpool and Manchester folks; for passing by a Poughkeepsie packet, I saw her loaded entirely, both under and above deck, with bales of New Orleans cotton going to a factory in that quarter. What a reverse of things! three years ago (and it would have been the same at this day but for the restrictive measures of England) at the same season of the year, this sloop would have been loaded with Liverpool salt and crockery ware; with Manchester cotton goods, Leeds broad cloths, &c. &c. It cannot be denied, should a settlement between the two countries take place, that the importations from Britain will still be large. I should only observe how much more of a customer this country would have been to England, had not the policy of the latter compelled the Americans to become manufacturers; and most certainly Congress are now bound to protect them all in their power. But for the mistaken policy of England, in issuing these unfortunate Orders in Council, and sticking to them, be assured, France and America would long ago have been at loggerheads. . . . . .

I am, dear Sirs, &c.

. . . . . .

" Statement of Cotton Manufactories, situated within 30 miles of the Town of Providence, R. I."

Towns.	Factories.	N° of Spindles in operation.	N° of Spindles which which might run in the Buildings.
Prov. R. I. -	1	540	1,250
North Prov.	5	3,592	6,700
Johnston - -	2	1,382	2,700
Cranston - -	4	1,100	2,988
Cumberland	2	412	412
Smithfield -	3	4,188	5,800
Situate - - -	3	2,688	4,200
Gloucester -	2	72	432
Warwick - -	9	10,757	17,858
Coventry - -	5	5,124	12,800
Exeter - - -	1	400	800
So. Kingston	1	408	408
	38	30,663	56,248
Massachusetts, within 30 miles of Providence:			
Rehoboth - -	8	5,250	9,438
Attleborough	4	1,200	4,460
Taunton - -	1	800	1,000
Dighton - -	4	2,775	7,000
Wimtham -	1	260	260
Norton - - -	2	480	2,400
Mansfield - -	2	360	1,600
Medway - -	2	1,000	1,500
Franklin - -	1	200	400
Murdon - -	1	3,392	11,000
Dedham - -	1	654	1,200
Walpole - -	1	- - -	800
Canton - - -	2	1,000	2,400
	30	17,371	43,458
Connecticut, within 30 miles of Providence:			
Pomfret - -	1	1,560	3,000
Plainfield - -	3	1,060	3,096
Sterling - -	1	- - -	2,000
Thompson -	2	- - -	2,300
Killingly - -	1	800	1,500
	8	3,420	11,896
	76	51,454	111,600

" Each spindle will produce yarn enough weekly, to make two and a half yards of cloth, of the value of 30 cents. pe yard. The number of spindles now in operation will, therefore, produce sufficient yarn, when wove, to make in each week, 128,635 yards of cloth, worth $ 96,476. 25cts."

" Messrs. Nathaniel and Falkner Phillips and Co. (435)
" Gentlemen, Philadelphia, 18th Nov. 1811.

. . . . . .

" The continuing for a long time the non-importation system, by encouraging manufactories here, will greatly endanger the trade hereafter. Manufactories do grow prodigiously in extent, and in the improvement of the quality of goods; and the difficulty of getting hands is every day diminishing. There is a manufactory of cords, velveteens, &c. near this city, where they turn out very good work. In heavy goods, where cotton is a material article, and it can be laid down at ten cents, about fivepence half-penny sterling per pound, at the loom-house door, while you have to pay for it about twelvepence sterling, the manufacturer goes to work with great advantage; and on the back of this and the freight insurance of goods to America, and the duties paid here, (amounting together to about twenty-two and a half per cent.) are all saved. I am clearly of opinion, that if a Non-Intercourse Act existed three years, the trade to this country in cotton goods would never be worth pursuing afterwards.

Yours, &c.

. . . . . ."

(Circular Letter.) (351)

" Messrs. Martin, Hope, and Thornley.
" Gentlemen, Liverpool, 11th May 1811.

" We take the liberty herewith to inform you, that we have established ourselves in this town for the sole purpose of making similated papers, which we are enabled to do in a way which will give ample satisfaction to our employers, not only being in possession of the original documents of the Ships Papers and Clearances (a list of which we annex) but our Mr. ——— having worked with his brother Mr. ——— of London, in the same line for the last two years, and understanding the necessary languages.

" Any changes that may occur in the different places on the Continent we are careful to have the earliest information, not only through our own connexions, but also those of Mr. ——— who has proffered us his assistance in every way, and who, for some time past, has made similated papers for Messrs. ——— and ——— of this town; to whom we beg to refer for any information regarding the same.

" We remain respectfully, Gentlemen,
" Your most obedient servants,

CLEARANCES.

" Laurirg,
Bergen,
Troudheim,
Friderichshald,
Christiana,
} in Norway.
Gothenburg.
Uddervalle.
Carlsham.
Stockholm.
Riga.
Danzig.
Memel.
Königsberg.
New York.
Boston.

Charleston.
Philadelphia.
Dieppe.
Nantes.
Bordeaux.
Rio de Janeiro.
St. Michaels.
Terceiro.
St. Ubes.
Faial.
Lisbon.
Bilboa.
Santander.
Gixon.
Malaga.

SHIPS PAPERS.

American.
Danish.
Swedish.
Königsberg.

Stettin.
Memel.
Danzig.
Rostock."

J. M'Creery, Printer,
Black-Horse-Court, Fleet-Street,
London.

INDEX.

	Commons Evidence.	*Abstract.*
BIRMINGHAM.		
Attwood, Thos.	Page 1	Page 1
Bannister, William	106	9
Blakeway, William	59	4
Clark, Thomas	107	10
Cook, Benjamin	87	6
Dunbar, Henry	105—250	8
Fiddian, Robert	77	6
Messenger, Thomas	63	4
Milward, Thomas	110	11
Osler, Thomas	96	9
Potts, Thomas	27	2
Ridout, Jeremiah	67—211	5
Ryland, James	48	3
Room, George	72	5
Smith, Benjamin	108	10
Scholfield, Joshua	98	7
Shore, Joseph	36—250	5
Spooner, Richard	52	4
Webster, Joseph	79	6
WEST BROMWICH.		
Whitehouse, William	19—125	1
WOLVERHAMPTON.		
Illidge, Thomas	92	7
Stanley, Joseph	95	9
SHEFFIELD.		
Bailey, John	127	11
Naylor, George	145	12
Rhodes, Ebenezer	152	12
THE POTTERIES.		
Stevenson, Ralph	161	13
Wedgwood, Josiah	156	13

INDEX.

	Commons Evidence.	*Abstract.*
LEEDS.		
Dennison, Thomas	Page 244	Page 16
Holforth, James	263	20
Lawson, Christopher	242	15
Rawson, George	253	17
Walker, Joseph	239	15
RAWDEN, NEAR LEEDS.		
Thompson, William	229	14
DEWSBURY.		
Beckett, Joshua	247	16
Sheard, David	260	18
WAKEFIELD.		
Oxley, John	249	17
SADDLEWORTH.		
Buckley, John	462	20
Platt, Francis	454	18
HALIFAX.		
Greenwood, Thomas	127	20
ROCHDALE.		
Hastings, William	205	22
Hoyle, Henry	209	22
Midgley, William	195	21
Turner, Richard	478	23
Walker, William	202	22
BURY, LANCASHIRE.		
Grundy, John, Jun.	213	24
Kay, James	217	23
MANCHESTER.		
Cardwell, Thomas	282	27
Palfreyman, George	296	27
Phillips, Shakespear	434	25
Weight, Joseph	276	28
Wiggin, Timothy	321	28
Withington, Thomas	289	26

INDEX.

	Commons Evidence.	*Abstract.*
STOCKPORT.		
Bentley, John - - -	Page 273	Page 31
Bury, Jeremiah - - -	265—480	30
BOLTON IN THE MOORS.		
Wood, John - - - -	223	31
KIDDERMINSTER.		
Broom, Herbert - - - -	118	32
Watson, Richard - - -	112	33
LEICESTER.		
Drayton, William - - -	184	34
Leach, Thomas - - - -	177	34
HINCKLEY.		
Short, Thomas - - - -	190	35
WARWICK.		
Parkes, John - - - -	192	35
WARRRINGTON.		
Holt, Thomas - - - -	291	36
SALT WORKS OF CHESHIRE.		
Okill, William - - - -	479	37
LINEN TRADE OF SCOTLAND.		
Fergus, Walter - - - -	475	37
SPITAL FIELDS.		
Hale, William - - - -	309	39
Honyman, John - - - -	299	38
Stevenson, George - - -	316	39
CLOTH MANUFACTURE OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND.		
Woods, Samuel - - - -	477	39
MANUFACTURES OF AMERICA.		
Ronnaldson, James - - -	451	51
Kinder, Thomas - - -	446	52
White, Campbell, P, - - -	440	53

INDEX.

	Commons Evidence.	Abstract.
LIVERPOOL.		
Brown, William A.	Page 294	Page 44
Holt, Thomas	291	42
Rathbone, William	428	44
Richardson, John	425	43
Thornely, Thomas	344	44
Yates, Joseph B.	375	40
LONDON.		
Fry, John	463	47
Hinckley, Henry	343	47
Jaffray, John R.	337	47